

Nov. 8, 1948 - Monday

Dear Joellen,

We went about 20 miles to a good chicken dinner yesterday, were just trying it out. Gave Grandmother her ride the nice time of day and weather changed shortly afterward. This morning wet snow which will go off and put water in ground.

Last day of bird season was Friday and a fine day for bird hunting with a dog. We went (Tom and I) to where we used to log. Had our limit, 6 birds by 9:30 A.M. in a nice light rain and drove home in torrents. Then Sat. P.M. bird season was extended 1 week, but this snow will close it today as to being any good.

Potter and I should have been on the road to the marsh this A.M. but I went Friday with bronchitis and busted it up since but too soon to make the effort.

I had a wonderful time this fall. Brought home 23 partridge and 1 pheasant on the equal divide but I put in to the pools more than I took out. Ducks 3 but I may get a couple more. We have to go down before Sat. to close up and disconnect Fountain. Shipped last of cattle Wed. so no farm problems. Halloween educated Prissy and Debby to smearing my rear window of car with wet fingers and dust inside. Cleaned the outside a couple of times before I located it. Combination stuck good.

Your people been going like scared cats with politics, clubs and dinners. Sometimes a sitter, me, and Bruce when they are not too late.

We got your letters but one occasionally will maintain your standing. You are busy. We are not.

Investigate the Ry and Train Number on which you will arrive Chicago when you come home. I may be there with a car at Babcock. Want also time of leaving and arrival Chgo.

I must get from school what appeared to be a Red Bird when I left her there.

Love
Grand Dad

W. D. WHEELER

Monday Nov, 1948

Dear Joellen,

Had a second dose of Ice but it cleaned up in 2 days so driving is good again.

Prissy went to school today. First time since vacation. Over bronchitis and Debby is recovering. Prissy has phoned her Grandmother 6 times a day for several days when I answered phone and I don't know how many more. As soon as she heard you did not get a doll rain coat she called me and told me to tell her Grandmother "to start making one." Appears to me there is a seamstress and small slave driver in the house. Guess Betty has been busy with one in bed for the last week. Myrta is off the Ball points, but with a new good fountain pen for incentive and a bottle of vitamins for effort maybe you will get results.

I am due in Chicago but I am delayed from day to day by other stuff.

There is not much doing.

Love
Grand Dad

Dec. 1948
Tuesday

Dear Joellen,

I am set for Chgo. next week. Have arranged to buy a small interest in a hotel.

Drive 1st grade school bus for Priscilla quite much. Soon as you left the little Saucies started WeeLee. Myrta told them not to and that cinched it. Betty asked me if they still did it. Yes I and the whole first grade.

Winter came Sunday nite and we have ice hut it's thin and should wear out on pavement in a couple of days more. I'm waiting for it.

Your family are busy and going about day and nite. They seem to get sitters as needed.

Mrs. Harsh died last week and Martina is still here.

I am catching up on the non important work I have put off since Sept. 1st. Not busy otherwise. Not much of interest to do.

If they run 2 sections Hiawatha first usually comes thru to Babcock & Wis. Rapids and north hut leaves 12:30 as 1st section.

Love
Grand Dad

Thursday
Jan. 1949

Dear Joellen

Our long autumn seems to be over. The sleet went fast and we have snow and -10 and a chilly wind.

Your Dad's car needs a replacement for the right rear quarter. Got rammed in F Du Lac yesterday. Don't know much about it.

Little collies were adv. yesterday. I just let him out (your dad) & he said he had just taken one home in his lap. First expense on 3 mo. old pup, 1 pair of new pants. Will take about \$100 for next 12 months. Some are worth it.

Grand Mother goes out quite a lot. Noon time I dumped 4 under wears in front of Prissy and told her to "Try one on."* Debby came up with quick, "I don't like my under wear."

Have been busy. Sent Gov't and State their profits on my business as usual. Fine! You are going stepping in N.H.

If we keep on fleshing up we will have to put bay windows on the house also. I go to Chicago Sunday nite for most of next week.

Have the Christmas trees, one each side driveway. Keeps everybody out of the ditch; also grand landscaping.

Love
Grand Dad

W. D. WHEELER

Saturday 2/6/49

We are all getting filled up on assisting on the "magic." Soon Abbotts, McCormicks and Millers will have to have a warehouse to hold the equipment. It's awful.

Since Thursday midnite the McC's and Abbotts are off to Chicago for the weekend. Return Sunday P.M. probably the worse for wear. I'm supposed to meet them in a pinch only.

Yesterday Marie, Debby, and Rita were stamping around in the snow when Myrta get home in P.M. locked out with the key inside. Was not for long or cold. Lately it will be ~ 10 in A.M. and 20 above in P.M. We rate well with the little girls when there is no one else around. Guess I told you car is fixed up and washed clean. Am asked if I traded again. Been muddy so long I had forgotten wheels were red. Roads mostly ice or snow. We are sticking close and comfortable. Not much doing.

Love
Grand Dad

W. D. WHEELER

Friday Feb. 12th 1949

Dear Joellen,

You are back from the jamboree I take it. Sounded good to me and how it would have howled a few years ago (45) if I had been in one.

The pup is Bruce's dog. He feeds her and runs her around 3 or 4 times daily. She is for both. Far as I have seen Dad mops up when needed. She is exceedingly timid but has learned to slip thru the little girls who are too rough but can't realize it. In a panic if an outsider appears outside or in.

I have an invitation for a winter dinner near Lake Poygan for Sat. Glen's pals of the Oconto. We will settle it today. Probably pass it up. They go 35 miles; we 200, and it might not be rosy driving. State Hy's getting clear one track, side and county Hy's just plain ice bottom. Had chains on mostly for a month. Mainly to push stalled cars out of my way. Been doing only town driving. Costs \$1.50 for tow cars and 60¢ to 90¢ for drinks to act pushed away from curb unless you want to be tight. Have considerable snow and in spots it is plowed 10 feet high. We need the water late.

The Chicago weekend was a great success and everything serene at the homes. We were quite popular with nobody else around.

Myrta gets out around town some nearly every day and the gore at card club on Mondays.

Potter and Ferrandos left for 3 weeks in Florida a week ago. I drove by before I heard it but I knew by the appearance of garage he had left for Florida not Medical meetings or Mauston tracking.

3 weeks from next Sunday our snow will be going fast if weather is seasonable. Winter nearly over.

Love
Grand Dad

W. D. WHEELER

3/10/49

When you get to Chicago if you miss Hiawatha you can get North Western 400 streamliner at about 2:45 P.M. Chicago to Adams and bus to Wis. Rapids and be met there. And Soo Line #17 with sleeper at 5:50 P.M. in a pinch. Of course telephone or wire where to meet you.

From Chicago to Marshfield buy round trip on Milwaukee or Soo and I'll ride out 1 way. If Northwestern buy 1 way. All three stations in Chicago fairly close. Enc. ticket money \$25.00.

I bought a few cattle to start out with yesterday and maybe will get more that will appear "worth the money."

Neighbors are aroused because a few have optioned to sell to a Realtor whether as a speculation or as agent for the Wisconsin Valley Improvement I don't know. Nobody to see me yet but if I have cattle the place will be a going outfit. From what I hear they are getting enough.

Bright days 10 above A.M. 32 to 40 P.M. We need some rain or snow soon.

Love
Grand Dad

Added to check allowance April 1st to June 1st \$15.00

W. D. WHEELER

Wed. March 16, 1949

Thank you for the Birthday gift. Fine. I haven't opened it yet.

The pup is worse than the offspring in the presence of any company. Makes more noise and scared. They try to haul her over to me but it only puts her in a panic. If you do not try to get near her on the start she may get friendly soon. Just possible she won't bark at you.

I am sending Fischer to a close auction and I go to a far one today. Maybe we will get a few. I already have 4 pieces, and not too much water until it thaws more.

I suppose your family will meet you. We should have 1 car that will run. Priscilla has a crowd of 12 now but 2 are usually sick or missing so its 10 average. Haven't been pinched yet for 5 in front seat. Cop looks cold standing out. Maybe one of them is his relative. Percentage is with him. Nice bright sun. Frozen in A.M. but up 25-30 in P.M. No snow, no rain. Driving fine all roads. Dry on top but frozen underneath.

Your Dad went to Necedah today. Have an army warehouse like one here but smaller. they are plenty busy but nothing much in town.

Myrta is making a dress for Debby and Betty one for Priscilla. Guess they expect to spring them same time. Priscilla is in 2 or 3 times a day to be sure to keep her Grandmother at it. We had one kind of candy they could not have and 8 they could The one is what they desired. They just calmly ransack the place looking for spoils every time they come.

I bot me a present lately. Fill in for Trout outfit. 9 small items. Bruce will be interested to get some of it. I had a moth loss in my fly box. I figured to settle with Bruce for 48¢ worth. Look like more.

Not much doing.

Love
Grand Dad

W. D. WHEELER

Saturday March 19, 1949

Now I have opened the present and it fits just fine. Spoil by sports wear by correct for deer hunting.

Debby is a capitalist (newly rich). Found a dollar bill in the hedge. Priscilla hasn't that kind of money and Debby acts the part.

The little girls gave at a green silk necktie and your people a maroon jacket like your Dad's green one. Will enable them to tell us apart as we go reeling around. The birthday dinner is to be when you are here. We have a roast a. foot high. Also Turkey and hamburger de luxe.

Bot 3 more cattle and must have a thaw by Monday so we can water, or skid them down to the creek. Weather will likely warm up tomorrow. Yesterday only 8 at noon, Enough as we traveled to a lusty happy birthday today.

Myrta has been to club, a Gore party (they really Gored her) and D.A.R. so far this week and has club next Monday. Going strong.

I am overparked but waiting for a phone call which is going to show a goodly return so I can probably look for my name in the Tattler tonight. Maybe can talk myself out.

Love
Grand Dad

W. D. WHEELER

April 14, 1949
Thursday

Dear Joellen

Sorry not to see you over the weekend but it's hard to curb a born savage especially when the other savages are on the romp.

Returned Monday A.M. with 2 fresh wall eyes (worth \$1.60) on the table. We did not fish too hard; and by turns one watched the poles and the other worked a little and slept much/ nice fish but not much action. When the pole wiggles pull 'em in. We had a 30 ft. anchor rope on one end and a 30 ft. rope tied to the shack. Used the boat as a dock and ferried it either way. Minimum effort. Saturday there were 50 odd boats in sight from daylight to dark from the shack and that's a small piece of the river. Boats much thicker below us. People from Milw., Chgo., and even St. Louis. Everything that would float was on the river and some bailed continually.

The crate "he runs like a watch." Having trouble keeping it since I had it washed. Have had 3 chances to sell but I won't make a price. However I had to assure the cattle trucker yesterday that I would give him first chance when I am ready to sell.

Was busy yesterday buying cattle private sale here and there. Secured 10 pieces. Good stuff. Had to go with the truck to pick them up in one load and did not get back until 7:30 P.M. Now I have 29 and am looking for bargains only. Occasionally pick a cheap one up at the auctions.

Potter is soon marrying Miss Seibert. It's out because he bought her a Rock, and Rock is the word.

Peter comes this P.M. to start the heavy work on the landscaping. We are going to move I guess all the shrubbery from McCormicks and Abbots over to our place. Do you suppose it is all they do not want any more; or is it generosity?

Weather fine so I have only been in the office an hour since last Thursday until this A.M. Got to work for a couple of days now. Business is pretty good.

We need rain. Paper said we had it yesterday but we did not. Maybe it comes today.

The girls come over every evening right after their dinner for a short session. Vacation and yards are full of kids.

Had the Pontiac washed and spots painted. Fit to go in Society. (Does not run any different.)

There goes the phone. Good bye,

Love
Grand Dad

CONGRESS HOTEL
Chicago 5, Illinois

May 5, 1949 Thursday

Came down here Tuesday P.M. Was hot. Been getting hotter ever since, wish to stay for a meeting tomorrow but I may cut it short and leave at noon rather than see it thru. Came mostly to prevent them putting me in as Pres.*

Last Friday I had garden put in on the farm and Sunday we had a good rain so it should come early. Peter is working at the garden and lawn in town so we will have a good start also. Hope he got the storm sash off and shut off oil burner.

Was nice you put in the week end in New York. Hit a few high spots while they are close.

I am going to be busy for a couple of weeks and there is little news.

Love
Grand Dad

* Pres. of Jobbers Assn.

W.D. WHEELER

May 16, 1949
Monday

Dear Joellen,

I am kind of occupied at my slow pace. Not so good when I returned from Chicago: but by Thursday was all set to go trout fishing Saturday on the opening. Passed it up as I would have slept out or made a hard trip. Opened season at noon Sat. and everybody and his brother was out. No reports as I went to Wausau early today. Guess it was a Scramble, and I did not miss much.

I expect to go up middle of week and. perhaps find less competition.

The Buick makes the road fine from 20 to 120 miles per. Under that there is a second gear to use. It's a handy rig to have around.

Fine spring weather and getting summer like. Can use more rain for reserve.

Gardens are up good, town and farm. Ours should be early. Cattle are all out to pasture so only have to watch everything grow. Effort is over there for a while until I start to sell.

Maybe I'll get the lumber moving out soon with not too much effort.
Abbotts still go the pace.

Jack is back for the season and the small kids have Dog parties. Mine in anchored but balance are unpopular in the gardens. I mailed the brownies a while since.

Love
Grand Dad

W.D. WHEELER

Saturday
May 20, 1949

Dear Joellen,

We are puttering around the place 2 hrs every A.M. Really getting it in shape. Almost a frost Thursday nite. We will be getting small vegetables from both town and farm in 2 weeks if we escape a frost. Less chance every day now.

I did not go Trout fishing until Wed. P.M. and Betty went also. She promptly caught a nice legal trout - our total - and it develops she is the only Abbott to have done so. She caught several when about 8 or 9 years old. She fishes with worms and the container goes hay wire so she winds up carrying them in her pocket.

Bruce nearly busted from wanting to go. Said she would not get anything, etc. Would not lend his outfit but we finally got the boots. My secondary outfit (to loan) was better. Then last night the family had commercial fish and Betty ate her trout. That about finished your Dad and Bruce who fish trout some together. Their forecast was pretty loud so she rubbed it in.

I am going today with Glen to a place on the Tomorrow River. Semi private. Time 1:30 to 11:00 P.M.

St. Albans S. S. goes picnic this A.M. to Worth Wood Co. Park. The 3rd car is handy and reliable. Nice weather but we need more rain. All I have to do in agriculture now is watch the crops and cattle grow!

When do you come home!

Love
Grand Dad

Priscilla suffers with Myrta tonight.

W.D. WHEELER

May 26th, 1949

Great activity at Abbots. Papa gets home this evening, and at 5:00 A.M. tomorrow tribe leaves for Superior to work over the long weekend.

Coldish clear weather but just escaped frost and we still may get it tonite.

We will likely stay at farm some nites where we have the 2 stoves unless it warms up. Hard to run oil burner low enough and our electric heat not quite enough for comfort.

Debby came over after lunch alive and bored. Told her we had to nap so she crawled up on the couch and slept 1½ hours. After that we took her to the farm. Her main interest was a dead cow hauled out in a driveway which we passed, and Prissy was in haste to get the gruesome details last evening.

The town put granite thick and good from the county line to our gate on farm. After 26 years we have a good road and it looks as if I would sell to Wis. Development along in June. However we will have use of it this year and next if we do not get more water. Get just enough at present but no reserve for summer. Have 83 grass cutters on the place, about ½ mine, balance boarders.

Appears we will have a restful and easy weekend.

Love
Grand Dad

W.D. WHEELER

May 26, 1949

Coming from Milw. by car may complicate getting your trunk here. If you express it O.K. but if express only from Chgo. it may be easier to check on Soo Line Ticket which will not prevent my using it later.

You can give your baggage check to Transfer Co. in Chgo. (maybe Parmalee) take their check or receipt over to Soo Line and check on ticket to Marshfield. Do it first thing while you are close to (Soo Line, Grand Central Station). Otherwise you might have to go to Express office in Chicago further away. Jot down numbers and name on all baggage checks so you will have record.

Do it the easiest way.

Love
Grand Dad

W.D. WHEELER

Friday

Maybe I forgot to tell you that by showing both tickets and paying transfer charges depot to depot in Chicago at same time you can probably check any baggage you wish Wellesley to Marshfield. Probably you knew it anyway.

Abbotts made their 5:00 A.M. start at 6:05. Anyway a car full of gear left and I suppose they were stowed away in it.

We just happened to be up to breakfast by 5:50. Early to bed.

Love
Grand Dad

W. D. WHEELER

Sept. 1949
Thursday

Dear Joellen,

The telegram was fine and interesting. Suppose you had a wonderful time.

I have a cheap garage for Harold so he goes dead storage about Dec. 1st. to rest up for next year. Betty is talking of washing (2 Ball Points empty) and daubing up spots.

I can lock up the business with comfort tonite and it won't annoy me while I am in Mich.

Glen decided to go yesterday which makes it better. We start tomorrow A.M. We stay in Abbotts Resort. Abbotts plan to come to plant trees Oct. 7th. They were planning for it.

I told them only thing sure was Clark returning with a crick in his back regardless of whether he used a pick, spade, shovel, or fingers.

Well, Glen and I will be out daytimes so we won't see the ordeal. We may be out before they start at the work. A surmise that we will plant trees would be in error.

Shipped 9 more cattle last Saturday and no hurry about the 7 remaining.

Big frost last nite finished off the green stuff.

Priscilla looks forward with pleasure to my leaving so she can use my bed.

I suggest you send community letters on our stuff.

Love
Grand Dad

W.D. WHEELER

Sat. Oct. 14th 1949

I had a fine 5 days and Glen 7 fine days in Mich. in spite of a small GINCS working against us. Enough birds for our own use only. Country was at its best and we both enjoyed it hugely with rain to lay the dust. I did a few things that I always have been able to do but wasn't hardened up on the farm gradually as formerly. We stayed in your cottage and weather was cold first nite but warmer after. The Gincs hit me in the back on the 5th day late and so we came home on the 7th day and it hit Glen that nite in the stomach. Just a little too much muscular strain for me and too much cold lunches for Glen. However, we had an enjoyable time and managed to get home with slight discomfort. I can sit up, get up and down carefully and drive the car and walk but discomfort in bed. Had my inner spring (- - -) made over to a thin mattress, put 3 table leaves under it and I'm slowly improving. Have had deep heat treatments and yesterday massage, and I think maybe it was all wrong.

Told Potter Wed. I would go to Freemont Thursday for opening on duck Oct. 14 at noon. Thursday A.M. Potter went alone and Clark and Tommy arrived from Fond du Lac same day. Howard Dessert was invited to go but did not call me Wed. eve. so I knew nothing about him. Potter was lukewarm about going as marsh is dry, but luckily he went.

Season opened yesterday at 12?00 noon, can shoot until 4:30 P.M. At 5:00 P.M. Tommy phoned from Woldts resort to Thornton "Come down and call Glen and me to get some hunters down there." Glen called me. I called Dessert, found he hadn't gone and told him to go and look after himself. Then I called Jose to no avail and I called Tommy back, who was sitting by the phone for returns. The one chance in a thousand developed. Clark, Tommy and Potter all had the limit of 4 each and expected to get 4 each today. Best first day in several years, and on a dry marsh. Tommy urged me to come but Glen and I are out of it for this trip. I'll be surprised if they get good shooting today, it would be a repeater seldom realised. But I expect to go down on first heavy rain or wind. One day isn't the season, which still has 43 days (2 gone) to go.

Thornton had agreed to take Bruce and Mack to the Big Eau Plaine flowage for fishing today and he had to follow through. I'm glad so many are having such a good time today.

I can do my work and if I can get back repairs will put in balance of season efficiently with work caught up. Bruce does his home work and my home work. Good arrangement. Your house is full of paint odor and chaos. Debby got her presents and is satisfied. Party is to be Halloween. We await return of hunters and fishermen for tall tales.

Love
Grand Dad

Tommy sits with patern and goes down river in the dark.

W.D. WHEELER

Oct. 23, 1949
Sunday A.M.

The painters wilted yesterday A.M. under a woman's wrath and did 2 days work in a day yesterday or they would have had no Sunday, Bruce said. (Terrific)

I have missed most of the bird season but tried out the Mondeaux Forest with Potter Friday totteringly. Such a back. Guess early treatments all made it worse. However, there are 15 possible days left and I'll be on the edges at least part of each day, because I got away with the Mondeaux trip. Am much improved and sleep enough on my new hard mattress with 4 table leaves under it.

This P.M. your Dad, Bruce and I go for birds. Be fixed himself by the build-up for Bruce too early in life so he had to take him but Bruce goes as gave carrier, no powder and ball. He will not be overloaded as Potter took dog to Freemont yesterday and we will probably loose on the down birds unless our luck beats our ability.

I dragged around sorting cattle yesterday A.M. Prospects did not come and I had to go to farm again late P.M. to feed.

Cannot change a tire so I got a helper. Bought a chicken, went to livestock exchange to locate helper and left chicken. After supper missed chicken so we attired myself cussingly and went for it. Met a buyer and sold all I had left in 20 minutes for \$850 cash in pants pocket. Last week over on the Mondeaux and over in the Live St. Ex. My luck beat my brains as usual.

Harold goes into dry dock about Dec. 1st to April 1st. Just as good for next year as this. A handy rig around the places.

Betty goes like a scared cat and does more than her share of work on everything. I no like it. She even painted Harold on the bald spots and washed him. Vanity!

Did I pay you for ticket? Grandmother says no!

When do you want your allowance June 1st to Jan. 1st?

Anyhow I managed to catch all the work up to Nov. 10th and I would have had to put in some time at it anyway, regardless.

Love
Grand Dad

W.D. WHEELER

Nov. 6, 1949
Sunday

Bird season is over unless we get a fleeting chance at ducks. I had as good a time as I could expect under handicaps. Finished out last 2 days south of here in strange country.

I am working and wearing out the back trouble. Expect to be over it shortly. Will have to work from now to Nov. 18th. Deer open on the 19th and I'll try to putter around at that.

Better write your Dad what accommodations your guest is making for return trip from Chicago and make yours for same train soon; so you can sure return together. I can use 2 return trips on Soo Line but no hurry to get them.

Farm work is caught up and also around the house. Nothing to do for me except to get my nose back on the grindstone. Business is good enough. I suppose I will have to fight to keep from gaining the 15# I have lost.

In general I have felt good all the time.

Between the 2 drivers we manage to get Myrta out some every day in the fine weather. Country needs water badly.

Love
Grand Dad

W. D. WHEELER

Nov. 20, 1949
Wednesday

Dear Joellen,

Get round trip ticket Chicago to Babcock. If your guest wishes one, also. I can use both.

I enc. check for the \$45.00 Savings. You have 6 mo. allowance, also \$30.00. Do you want it now?

Coxey's Army was out after deer mostly in my choice of territory. So I went to the edge where few go (Sat.) during the rush. I was low grade Sat. nite empty handed but I was not going to change position Sunday. Four in our party Sat. and 2 had a chance and bungled. Sunday we were down to 2 and it was better for us. Each had a deer in 1½ hours and no long drag and home by 11:00 A.M. Antlerless deer for first time in 25 years and your chance was 10 to 1 against the antler seasons. Butchering and meat but necessary to reduce herd in Wisconsin. Fine meat.

We go to Abbots to dinner tomorrow. No guests, no big work.

Get your school picked for next year early.

I mailed a box to you today. Not much to write nor much time.

Love
Grand Dad

W.D. WHEELER

Dec. 1 1949
Thursday

Dear Joellen,

I enclose check \$25.00 to buy ticket Chicago to Msfd. and return.

Some busy but nothing to do of interest so may as well put in some time.

I go to Chicago Sunday for most of the week.

Talked Pontiac trade on a 1950 today. Want too much, especially as my car is nearly as good as theirs. Not much change except small trash on the later models.

No news, fine venison.

Love
Grand Dad

W.D. WHEELER

January 5, 1950
Thursday

Cleared up Monday nite and dried off before it snowed Tuesday for a couple of hours. Too bad Ingrid didn't see our fine clean 3" snow and nice winter weather during the couple of hours before we got sleet. Not bad on top of snow and driving good enough.

The town is over the holiday jitters and pretty quiet with 18 below this A.M.

We are both in fine condition to start out for Florida today. Your Dad & Mother take us to Babcock this P.M. We get there late Sat. P.M.

Abbotts are building a Kearasel, but Dinah is probably going to stay in it about 10 minutes and then Ki Fi and will be taken back in house for the winter. She has had a taste of family life and will prefer it.

Expect I will not be bothered much with the business while I am away.

Not much time or news.

Love
Grand Dad

Jan 12, 1950

Dear Joellen,

Here 4 days and too much lazy to write soon. Gave the expansion buckle on the new belt a good try out at Margie's dinner Sunday. It's fine, but was kind of dirty pool to get these last gifts after they had already gone way beyond the limit. Promptly changed from suspenders to belt but it was O.K. because the former did not show, but it was a shame to cover them up.

Weather much like nice Wis. late May or early Sept. with no rain. It starts at 65, goes to 80 and back to 65. Little lower in nite. Our winter clothes (not coats) are just right to be worn as we wear summer apparel.

We take Harry and Ann out to dinner 3 days out of 4 which works out well. We are not rushing around sightseeing, nor will we. We drive daily and enjoy looking over the country. Georgia, Alabama and Northern Florida appears all alike to me. Sparsely timbered and settled on white sand which is flat and carries heavy cover in the lower plains, and there are plenty of them. I liked the appearance of the cities but can show more rural scenery from Winona to Dubuque on the Miss. River than in the 3 states.

Oh! My maroon jacket is the berries. Use it bathrobe to tux and from what I see nearly everyone uses a sweater or jacket as multiple garment. Mine goes over same as it did in Msfd. Have been asked several times as to where it was purchased. Of course, they first must compliment it.

I should have insisted Myrta bring her nice cane. Too bad people have to carry them, but it gets one attention. My contemporaries carry one and beyond that they carry two. There are benches everywhere and I like the way you can sit any time you wish in the shopping districts. Benches in the sun for tan seekers and in the shade for normal people on the wide sidewalk in each block.

You can tell the Northern men. They wear hats. Damndest looking cheap summer stuff, vintage of past summers, and mostly well worn. When last porter brushed mine, he said that's the kind of hat to wear here, a light weight felt. This is our winter, not summer. I suppose young men wear none, but know not. Haven't seen any yet.

Really, the weather is delightful. I came down here figuring to make no effort, and so far have succeeded. We live like cattle out to pasture. Eat, sleep and move when we feel like it. Myrta slept well. Hotel, Pullmans and here, and I think to her astonishment. Have a car available at all times. St. Pete is a clean well laid-out city. Many mammoth shade trees, and smaller. Flowers everywhere, and orange groves almost in the city. They are the best and prettiest scenery around, also You drive close to the Bayou Gulf all the time and in spots the hay is within a block one side and gulf on other.

The Kerskers stack up about like the Abbott tribe. Pete Jr. Prissy's age and Polley Debby's. Same breed of cats. Dr. Pete is rushed like Clark and naps at every opportunity. Margie, like Betty, is

into everything. Grandmother Kersker and her sister are here, and with Harry and Ann, it gives them 4 baby sitters. Pretty soft. They told me Pete had many clients over 60 years old and handled 40% of the birth cases in the city. I wonder if the 40% are included in the 60 class. How about the tag end ticket Chicago to Msfd? Baggage came thro fine ahead of us.

Love
Grand Dad

Sat., Feb. 4th, 1950

Dear Joellen

We are checking the baggage out today and leave Monday A.M. May stay in Chicago a day but will be home Wed. or Thursday. Guess your folks leave Chicago on Friday to Jamboree with McCormicks over the week-end.

I sent you a box of a spiffy confection from Hipplers. Tell me if it goes astray.

We will put in our time now on the beach, which is only 15 minutes away on the Gulf as we can.

Get a big umbrella and 2 chairs. Myrta likes to feed the gulls crotons. They fly around about 3 to 6" from her in flocks and catch them in the air. Quite amazing. Umbrella is supposed to keep the sun out of our eyes only, but I am all for it. When the gulls get to hovering around overhead I get under it. Safer.

Think plan is for all the Wheelers and Kerskers to go back to the Palm Garden at Indian Rocks for a dinner tomorrow. We will return Big & Fat.

Love
Grand Dad

W.D. WHEELER

Friday, March 3

Dear Joellen,

We are getting back to normal. Had some snow etc. but mostly sunny days. Need more water.

Sure had a fine time in Fla. but a nerve went dead in a tooth on Sat. and we left Monday for home. Could not get any action there, so Pete stabbed it open and doped me up to get to Chicago anyway. Was not bad up and had it out last Monday. Came out mean, as usual. Crossed roots. Going alright now.

Most of the costumes on the Fla. beaches look like Hell on the people who wear them.

There was not a drop of Atlantic or Gulf water got to my skin. Luckily some fresh water did. I figured out that in St. Pete there are 100,000 people sitting on the benches during the day light; at all hours.

I asked Priscilla if she missed her Grandmother and she said Yes! and you too. She had a W.C. shot and was home yesterday but came to see us. Is at school again today. The 2 have been dropping in 2 or 3 times a day.

We had the presents out the first time or I guess they would have exploded. Betty got a State Patrol ticket before I returned. I phoned him and he said not to order a license until I saw him about it. A few days later, every time I parked the car the locals put their ticket on it. I walked in Tuesday and put them on the desk and said I was afraid they were running short of tickets. I was not notified by Dept. in advance. They said not necessary any more but they could notify as courtesy. I said when they notify a man for 38 years and quit, it's a trap. They were nice about it and it was of no consequence.

When you go to Fla. you will find a fine sample of the country and I think the best around Sarasota and the State Fair at Tampa in Jan. can see the most, the quickest. Their white tailed deer (same breed as Wis.) are about as large as a greyhound and built similar. Weight $\frac{1}{3}$ of ours. Built to run, not for meat.

My business went good as usual so I'll neglect it a little more from now on.

Potters and Ferands left for Fla. the day after we returned. Did not see him. He wrote me Feb. 1st he was over a cold and tonsilitis and full of sulfa and penicillin, and had bronchitis, so was going to try Florida climate on it. Said here it has been changing 50 to 70 degrees in 24 hours.

Dinah has chewed up about \$50 worth of stuff still will double it by the end of this year I think.

Love
Grand Dad

W.D. WHEELER

March 27, 1950
Monday

Nearly spring. About 5 above this A.M. but I expect snow will be going fast a week or ten days hence. Bright and sun warm thro the glass.

Family dinner at your home yesterday. We took a salad cooked and raw 8# chicken. Grandmother rides a little nearly every afternoon. Yesterday had a flat and she was much disturbed because 15 miles from home. It takes no longer to change at that distance than elsewhere. A convenient place and I had no trouble.

Have my work caught up and am ripe for another vacation when I find something interesting. Grandmother keeps the record on your savings. Including allowance in arrears to March 1st, it is \$60.00; due on demand.

We have Dinah trained. She comes in front door with the girls and goes right out the back door. Furnishes us fresh air.

Haven't heard from Harry since we left Fla. He has writers cramp in the head, as usual. Not much of interest.

Love
Grand Dad

April 7, 1950
Good Friday

Grandmother was worried the small girls would be sick. They were not.

She came down with flu Wednesday but Dr. Karl gave her drastic treatment and she is up and down today and boxed. She lost out on a card game and a dinner tomorrow eve; but will get them later.

We have just stuck around for the last week but would not have done otherwise, anyway.

I am buying a few cattle now and then. Worth the money. Sometimes I get a nice ride to look at them and otherwise back mud and slush. Have time enough for everything I have to do.

Gladys got along fine with the girls. I go over a few minutes in evening. Gave them each a box of cookies Thursday P.M. They promptly told me I need not come over that evening.

Have a car in each garage. Ran the rust out of Harold. Good as last year.

There just isn't any news.

Love
Grand Dad

W.D. WHEELER

April 16
Saturday

Three days good thaw and snow is mostly gone, except moisture, sun, sand and cinders on curbs. Road is plowed open into farm and I must get there to get some clothes I stored for the winter.

Paper hangers Monday A.M. to paper both bedrooms and coat closet. They are getting ready for them today so we will be mussed up some for Sunday. Spiffy afterwards. Not spring but no more long winter weather. Lent has started my contemporaries doing penance, hoping it will offset their sins. Useless? most cannot overcome them in 6 weeks. Those that have enough make no effort and are comfortable.

New business is slow but I will get enough for the year.

Pup is aging rapidly and is going to be the prize clothes soiler. Scared to a panic of us still and to anyone but the family. Bruce runs with her 3 times daily. Both going to be fit for a marathon.

Myrta somehow gets a ride every P.M. Good going now—I have some trips to drive but no hurry about any of them.

I get in about 3 hrs. in the A.M. before I have to haul the 1st grade. Had nine yesterday. They are going to be women alright. All talk at once and nobody listens and start to visit after they get out. Priscilla keeps adding them on one at a time. The original guests are now kicking about the crowding. Would have had 10 yesterday but the last one took one look and walked.

Not much doing.

Love
Grand Dad

3/13/50

Enc. check. Myrta keeps the record.

I am overparked and only $\frac{1}{2}$ shopping done.

Home from Chgo. yesterday on early train. Last ret. ticket used up.

Love
Grand Dad

March 23rd, 1950

Dear Joellen,

The gift is fine. Can always use them. Abbotts gave me another tie for the occasion. Kelley green. This makes one every year for 3 years. Other 2 so far have worn 1 day each. This one I have worn since I got it and will continue indefinitely. Then I'll go at the other 2 for keeps. Grandmother says they do not fit with anything but the LAWN.

Had Harold plowed out as I may have to move him soon. Was still on the 4 tires and battery has been in warm storage.

Think Betty is anxious to have it in service.

Snow is going off rapidly today. Had 3" Tuesday which went yesterday. Maybe we will be pretty well clear of it a week from today. Side roads bad. In on one today either 4 or 5 inches slush, mud or both. Slippery but frost beneath.

Abbotts gave us a latest model Zenith Radio for my birthday 1950 and 51, Myrta's birthday, Mother's Day and Xmas 1950. At least that is the way it is going to be, otherwise it is too much.

We will stick around while most of the Abbotts are gone East. Lots of water in streets. Priscilla and Debby get into at every opportunity and get wet feet, but I guess it runs in the family. Noticed Betty's were wet last evening. A good wader could get up Adler Street without getting wet. In galoshes. I took Debby thro it this P.M. and the minute she was out of the car she made for the deepest puddle. I am putting off the driving much as I can for next couple of weeks. Will then be better going. Have enough to do.

Not much real news.

Love
Grand Dad

4/23/50
Sunday

Myrta is over her flu and follow ups.

I am over the Pip of last week. This covers any ailment with fever that you cannot classify or can designate by any one of many different names. Preceding by Profanity would be no objection. I was only semi bedridden.

We have had a week of mostly 40 degree average with squalls of rain and snow and finally 2 of high wind. Today is on the cool side but bright.

I have missed no fishing which opened up 20-29th because there wasn't any worthwhile.

Potter went to Mellen up north last Sunday but caught no trout while standing in snow 2 feet deep. Trout know there are no worms nor flies under that condition and I know they won't be fooled. I am set to go any time it's favorable from now on.

Betty wants to go up again and it puts Bruce's nose out of joint. Does not offer his hip boots.

Harold is working full time and I am busy at times. Do not care about working too much. Have 26 pieces cattle, all I could buy rite so far. Hope to get my 15 acres crops in soon. It still is not too late.

We go to your house again today for dinner. Go nowhere so no news

.

Love
Grand Dad

Did I tell you I went to a get-together at Amherst and Waupaca a couple of weeks since. I guess so. Anyway, had a spiffy time.

Sat. 5/27/50

Have ticket Soo Line. Can use portion to Chgo. on June 4th and air mail return to you from Chicago on June 5th to check baggage on.

When do you want to check (date)?

Otherwise if too late will send your ticket promptly and you can check on the return part and I'll use entire ticket my next trip.

Abbotts and dog left for cottage this A.M.

Love
Grand Dad

Late Sat. 27th

Dear Joellen:

I won't use this ticket next trip in any case so you check on it Chgo. to Marshfield.

If any hitch which I can't foresee check on your own ticket to Chgo. and I'll arrange to have it checked from there when you get home.

Takes up my time to get Gardens started but we are well along.

Love
Grand Dad

CONGRESS HOTEL
Chicago 5, Illinois

Sunday, June 4th, 1950

Dear Joellen,

I left Harold at Babcock and came in here tonite.

Fred Allman blew in Friday nite and was with us to lunch yesterday and to Abbotts at noon today. Knew nothing of the Happenings since 1:30 P.M.

Dinah digs out of her pen every morning but they were at it to dig-proof yesterday. She wails during daytime but so far doesn't stay in much.

Have not had much report on the week-end at Superior as they were all too busy.

We did nothing but somehow I have farm work caught up and Fischer put in farm garden and Peter town garden. Hope I will have some spare time when I get home.

Kerskers leave Florida on June 10th and stop at Racine overnite and on to Msfd, probably June 14-15th.

Marbeth came home Friday and was at Babcock on way to Milwaukee today. I changed over to 1st section at New Lisbon instead of staying on the Branch 2nd section, thereby getting in here earlier so was not on same train long.

There is no news. I'll be getting out Wed. or Thursday noon. See you soon thereafter.

Love
Grand Dad

W.D. WHEELER

Oct. 17, 1950
Tuesday

Dear Joellen,

Was busy. Bird season opened Sept. 23rd and I was set to go. Long season and lots of birds, but it developed less birds than usual. Something amiss in the forecast. I found it out with Potter and Glen first 2 days. Glen only got one and I never pulled the trigger and saw only 2 birds out of range.

Coxey's Army was out for 3 or 4 days but many got disheartened and quit, but plenty stuck. I went 3 full days and 5 part and no birds but stuck. Have gone whenever I thought weather was bad enough to be favorable, and the famine is over.

Score	6	-	Prairie chicken
	10	-	Partridge
	6	-	Ducks first trip
	1	-	Pheasant.

The fellow who stuck with me had about as many; so we have regained our self respect and feel we have not lost all our cunning.

Geo. Booth came here to oversee Gen's operation and to hunt. Sat. P.M. went with him and we each got 1 bird, hot bad.

Myrta rides in the P.M. Me and Jack and a gun. De poorly which suits her as she doesn't like to see the finishes, except pheasants which remind her of chicken in a fowl market.

Bruce got his first partridge with me in the Mondeaux forest. Pheasants. Were liberated close to the farm and he likes to hunt there. Took him and Mike Sunday A.M. I got the pheasant. Of course, they can't shoot on the wing yet. but they bang away and will learn. He is learning to hunt with his head from me; not feet.

Your folks were up over the week to close cottage.

I was dissuaded from going to Mich, alone for birds, so nothing is said no matter how much I go around here and it is plenty and not over.

8 men were scheduled for Fremont last Sat. the opening for ducks. Some were going Thursday with me, some Friday. I knew they would not all get there, but I little thought I would go alone Thursday. They (6) straggled in late Friday to Sat. noon; it opened 1:00 P.M. Usually the early ones open the place, clean it up and make the beds etc. Its work. We were out of wood but I had some cut with a power saw. Some had to be sawn, some split and all put in shed.

I pulled out the dishes, used a few for 2 days and piled them up for washing. Made my bed for the season and fixed me a place to shoot which paid. Used up all the wood in box; burned the oil in lamps and stove.

Sat. A.M. I put the buck saw on the buck close to wood. Set the axe in the splitting block and had hot water.

As they arrived I said the sooner you start your work, the sooner you will finish. I will say they did a fine job. I supervised without effort. Freemont has been too soft, which will not do.

I think Gen is going to do all right since the operation. Hope it's a success. Second eye for cataract.

I am pretty busy when I am in town but not rushed as in the summer. Farm is set for winter, so I just go out now and then to look things over. I have had a good time and enough birds. Am not through however. Want one more trip for ducks.

Have no other news.

Love
Grand Dad

WILLIAM D. WHEELER

Nov. 21st, 1950

Dear Joellen:

Guess I did not mention that after I left you Sept. 20th I made a call which was tiresome and got back to hotel 4:30 and stretched out for a rest. In about 5 minutes phone rang (Warren), "I have phoned every hotel in the Soo to find you. Leaving for Penn. at 8:00 P.M. and would like to see you." I had him come right over and I was bushed when he left at 7:15.

Hunting season was long and I'm glad I took full advantage. From Sept. 23rd to Nov. 21st anybody that inquired was told I was on my vacation just then.

Folks did not want me to go to Michigan alone. Would have been easier and probably would have secured more birds. I paired up with our good foot free hunter after the first week by which time my usual associates were petering out. Physically we both were slow but hunted with our heads. When I try to shoot fast, I'm poor. When slow return is smaller. Net returns 10 partridge, 7 sharp tail grouse, 1 pheasant cock, 9 ducks, 1 small deer. Folks approve of my going first 3 days, on the edge of deer territory. Safer! Every night, "Didn't you get a deer. Everybody is getting them. I did not see a deer first day. Nor a hunter except, my pal. Believe there were several thousand within 15 miles. 2nd day I saw 6 early and Coxeys Army moved in on us about noon. We quit early. 3rd day I saw 9 before Coxeys arrived and got mine. We do it smart. Long cold days 4:45 A.M. to dark. Staid still and watch. The one has to be in good range for me. I'm not good with a rifle but a damn sight better than the average if I am painstaking. I think Bruce was worried I would not get a deer. I was not. 7 day season instead if 3 to 5 days. Any deer instead of a fork horned b«ck. Meat. I drove in with mine on the fender at noon as he came from school yesterday. He made a block in nothing flat, and was so pleased.

I'm going to Chicago Sunday nite Dec. 3rd. Will mail you ticket for baggage from Chicago Dec. 4th. I'm long overdue because of vacations.

Harry and Ann invited us to Florida and we are all steamed up to go. Think we will have it definite soon.

Haven't seen the little girls since they returned from Milwaukee Sunday eve. "The Time of Times" I guess. I will have to quit. Over-parked since 1:00.

Love
Grand Dad

We go to Abbotts Thanksgiving.

WILLIAM D. WHEELER

Sat. 11/25/50

Dear Joellen

I'm always kind of dizzy about the Sooline ticket on which to check baggage. Guess you don't want it this time.

Have a full fledged invitation from Marry & Ann and we go just as early in Jan. as we can.

I have reservation at Morrison Hotel in Chicago (N. Madison St.) for Dec. 4th to 7th. At that time will make hotel reservation for overnite on way to Florida, and get tickets.

Please write me there at once and tell me what day and hour you leave Chicago on your return to Wsly in Jan. Maybe we will all go down together.

Love
Grand Dad

If you are going with any others, we will fade out.

MORRISON HOTEL
Chicago

12/6/50

Dear Joellen,

Been here since Monday A.M. Got my business done for Jan. and Feb. So I will be footloose.

Have Res. at Congress for nite Jan. 3rd and leave for St. Pete 3 A.M. Jan. 4th.

Don't know how our plans and yours will fit but that is up to you and Myrta. I can modify mine if I know soon enough.

I'm pleased I go by sleeper tonite. Here it's slush and I surmise it's ice from Babcock to Msfd. However, I got around good before today.

Everybody's getting steamed up for your arrival and the Holidays.

See you soon.

Love
Grand Dad

January 1951
Thursday 11th

Dear Clark & Betty

You decide how, what and where Joellen is to handle her vacation Feb. 2 to 11th.

We can handle it; if after she arrives: at no expense.

Rail round trip would be Pullman all way Boston to St. Pete \$124.49 plus lower berth \$15.41.
Upper some less.

Lv. Boston 11:00 A.M. Ar. St. Pete 4:45 P.M. next day.

Harry figures plane seat fare \$124.49 competitive, but to Tampa airport.

If plane held up anywhere for weather it might not be any quicker. It's winter travel not summer.

Kerskers as anxious to show Pete & Polly winter in frozen north as Clark was to show Bruce Marsh.

Please handle same as you would Charlie.

Love
Dad

Polly calls Myrta and Ann collectively "The Girls." Singular is Aunt Marder. Weather has turned normal 52 to 80. We have been just mootching around in no hurry for sidetrips. Just Idle and Lazy.

Dad

January 1951
Thursday 11th

Dear Joellen

We have your Sat. letter and note you think cost is high. So do I for the 6 days here You could make a much better trip for the money.

If you come Myrta says Pullman and she will pay difference. I guess even coach fare at \$96.00. Otherwise it's 2 long sit-ups 6 days apart, not one. I am for the Pullman as suggested.

Another thing to know. Most of the beaches belong to resorts and you have to stay at them to go in water etc. at your close convenience.

Every city has at least one fine Public Beach but all beaches are on the off side of keys and from 15 to 45 minutes by car. You cannot change in cars so have to go wet and so far weather has been unsuitable and few on any beach.

It means going for a few hours once a day. There is not much else to do of interest locally.

We would give you a panorama trip to the east coast as we will make one anyway, and short trips on this side. You cannot get around rapidly here, so not see much in 6 days.

Of course we would be glad to have you but you should spend more time.

Write soon and if anything comes up telegraph Western Union nite letter collect. Mail too slow.

Kerskers see Wis. winter and return in 8 days next Sun. or Mon.

Love
Grand Dad

January 1951
Tuesday 30th

Dear Joellen:

We were warned and warned on the cold wave due Monday nite. No come.

Fine sunshine days, cool notes. However, so far coldest winter experienced by St. Pete. To us near summer or early fall weather. However, breezes clear out the beaches except for the few who go at midday.

Wisconsin weather got to 30 degrees at Madison yesterday.

We have gone no distance from St. Pete as yet, but we will start soon to make a couple of 3 day trips.

Could not go far while Kerskers were North.

So far have seen them long enough to get a meager report on incidents.

We are getting what I came for - a rest and I am going good.

Love
Grand Dad

March 1951
Sunday

Dear Joellen

It snowed Friday night (a few large flakes) for the 6th time in 60 years. Followed a day's cold rain.

Last nite a light frost which will do much damage to fruit and kill some of their frail cattle. Too much Brahma blood to overcome pests but susceptible to cold and wet.

I am sure glad you did not come. Overcoats and furs of many vintages sitting on benches out of the wind and in sun. We have the unusual: a good heater so are comfortable. Ordinary heating good for about 55 degrees, not 45 to 32 currently.

We will make a trip Eastward but not until it warms up, which it will do probably within a day or two. We take no chances on getting into a cold place.

Weather has been fine for us compared to what they have in Wisconsin; and it's warm in the bright sun, even if temperature is a little low. Jan. averaged like our good Oct.

We have been to about 6 movies and Myrta joined the Kerskers and their guests at the Civic Opera "Naughty Marietta" last eve rather nite! They got back about 12:00 midnite and then Myrta went over to Gulf Beach to stay with Pete's mother about 30 minutes ride west of Harrys. I just could not go because a beach apt. does not really have rooms adapted to 2 women and a man.

We will get her this noon and go to lunch or dinner as desired and for a short tour. Fine day for ride, about 55 in shade now and 70 in sun.

My business going good and no plan as yet as to when we leave.

By comparison our one room apt. on the Wolf River has heat and running water in every room.

Must mention we all had dinner at Kerskers last eve and while they went out Harry and I stayed with Ann. About every time I looked at them they were napping. The kids slept and well. It's noon by the time we get around to start anything, so we have only P.M. and eve to fill in. Usually to bed at 10:30 except on occasions.

By the way, I bought Ann a bottle of whiskey and Myrta a Sauterne. When she stopped for her nite bag she sipped or her bottle. Was nearly full. Appears they were going on a bat over at Gulf Beach. Well, I'll get another bottle tomorrow, just in "case." I still have a little small change left.

Love
Grand Dad

WILLIAM D. WHEELER

April 1951
Saturday

Dear Joellen,

While a week since I was not quite cleared up on the pneumonia, I am going so good that I am not going back very soon for X-Rays at \$10.00 per to near "I am coming along good." I am satisfied I am out of it and will probably be no worse off for it eventually.

I did not try to go fishing on the opening as there is lots of time and weather was abominable and Glen and Potter were disappointed.

If the hunting season opened tomorrow I would go.

Bruce and Phillip went to the pond in park last Saturday and Sunday A.M. I took them to farm; a better plan but they got nothing desirable.

Bruce left 6:00 P.M. with Bouchers for Spirit Lake for the weekend. That is a good place and I think he will come back with some good pan fish. (Worth 90¢ per #) Bruce says he will have to cook as nobody else can in their gang. A good thing for him to develop.

I have gradually been catching up on my work which was neglected.

This week has been good weather and warm up to today. Had to start the burner this A.M. Had some drizzle yesterday and today, but it did not prevent Fischer doing my seeding.

I had no chance to buy cattle and they are so high and the administration is so undependable that all I picked up was 10 head. The ceiling they advocate will put these down \$32.50 per had under my cost. Black market will be O.K. on them.

I am filling the place up at 20% over last year with Boarders. Will get all I can run. Its sure income and not bad return.

I had the Pontiac dinged up to do its best and the dents hammered out and a coat of polish. Harold is out of hock and runs as usual. We need both.

Your mother got a letter from you today. She is Atlas for Marshfield. Fond du Lac and back in a day. New London same way. P.T.A. blow-out and rummage sale all this week and no help at home. Makes me mad. Not worth it. Not to long before we see you.

Love
Grand Dad

Little cuts from classes,
Little slips marked "late";
Make the senior wonder
If he'll graduate.

WILLIAM D. WHEELER

May 1951
Thursday

Dear Joellen:

I am going pretty good and tomorrow P.M. Glen and Morrison, Bruce and I go to Freemont for the week-end. Hope to get a few fish and an outing. I may as well sit around there as here and I won't do to much.

We have had good rains at nite and its cooler today but seems to be warming up.

I loaf around the farm in the afternoons as I get enough of the business in the A.M.

Your Dad is busy and Betty has a lot to do between home and the public.

Farm is growing 20 acres of crops and I have about 60 Boarders along with my 11 head and can take 15 more which I will probably get. Not much trouble to supervise and fair return.

No news..

Love
Grand Dad

W. D. WHEELER & COMPANY
Marshfield, Wisconsin

Friday 7th '53

Dear Joellen

We have been Dining at Slims frequently of late. We take the Abbotts and the Abbotts take us.

We have had no Floods but heavy Showers every few hours for the last 8 days. Cloudy but guess no rain today. The Girls have been much agitated. Scout Parade and Blow Out was postponed 6 times from day to day. Finally pulled it off in 3 hours instead of planned 10 hours.

Arthur Meen wrote from Seattle on the Third he would stop here on the 6th, on way to Mich. and Canada, via St. Paul. We rec'd the letter on the 5th late out figured he would be on 3 o'clock Bus, so met it. He was. So far we have had a fine visit. He sleeps and breakfasts at Abbotts at 8:30 A.M.. I get my 2 Regulars at shortly after six. Betty of course knows him, and we get much news about the relatives in the West.

I need another Vacation but nave just enough to attend to so I can't get away. After next week I cant get away until some Abbotts leave the Lake,

Bruce likes the Farm Work at \$1.00 per hour and I am glad to have him available. Maybe next week he can go on at Scofield at Cons't wages. In a week he will be too Rich to work for the lower Wage. I won't have too much to do from now on unless something goes haywire.

I am waiting to get Bruce at 8 o'clock and be on our way.

Love
Grand Dad

Glad to get your nice letter.

W. D. WHEELER & COMPANY
Marshfield, Wisconsin

March 21st /53

Dear Joellen,

Well, how does the work go? Mine is somewhere near Right. We have Spring weather. Been 12 to 50 Dec. today for several days. Snow about gone and starting to dry on top. Streams high with floating ice.

I told you the story of the Muffler. Nothing to the Present Climb. Myrta wanted a 4 Door next car. It was inconvenient for her friends and Self. Your Dad and Mother insist I drive no more without Puncture Proof Tires. I figured my Present car about Border for Trade in, this Spring.

So what? Cars are High based on what you get for your money and The Best Trade I could. was for a Ford V8. If I trade up again I will sure get Licked on Depreciation and more driving expense than I want on a Larger Car than is Convenient.

In 51 my car Made one trip to Racine, 225 Mi, One trip to Mich. 250 Mi., otherwise never over 100 Mi. from MSFD. In 52 omitted Racine. Never over 200 Mi in a Day. What do I want of a large car when $\frac{3}{4}$ of my driving in off the Pavement and Black top.

If I wish I can Trade up any time this year and lose nothing by so doing. If I go one in Society, I can take your Dads car. He can choose between the Ford and Harold.

I know not whether Bruce will Blow Up before the Ford and his Permanent License arrive, or not. Both should be on the way any day.

we went to Madison Today with Rices to Bas. Tour. Back tomorrow. He just Hoped neither would come today.

I have to go Peel Mushrooms. Tires are B.D. Present from Abbotts.

Love
Grand Dad

W. D. WHEELER & COMPANY
Marshfield, Wisconsin

Dear Joellen:

I told you about the Muffler and its demands. Well, your Mother and Dad gave me a set of Puncture Proof Tires for my birthday and insisted I drive no more without them. Bound to put them on the old Pontiac. So what! Had to buy a new car so we would get value from them. The Buicks and Pontiacs get bigger and bigger and costlier and costlier, mostly on account of Jim Cracks. If I traded up I would probably have a peak priced car to absorb the loss on later, so I traded down for good transportation only. Mainline Ford V8 with essentials and no frills. Traded about 10 days since and I guess if I had not gotten the car today your Mother & Bruce would have blown up.

Bruce has been driving Harold and your Buick since his license came. I had car this P.M. and tonite Bruce took ma and the small girls out in it. Some thrills.

Bruce and I went to Freemont for P.K.'s opening on Wolf River last Tuesday. Had Jim along. Cabin was dry and O.K. but water only 4" under floor. Tied boats to porch and stepped out inside. Used my small boat for getting to the Fountain which is always above water, woodshed, boathouse and other buildings. Bruce and Jim capsized first trip to other building after dark, out no hazard except a cold wetting.

No fish but "a good time was had by all."

The tires will enable me to drive alone with comfort when necessary and I am glad to have them.

I am kind of trying to keep busy until I can go to bed.

Love
Grand Dad

W. D. WHEELER & COMPANY
Marshfield, Wisconsin

Thurs. 4/23/53

Dear Joellen,

Since Sunday I have been kind of Busy very quietly Purchasing "Destruction Park". (known as Msf'd Speedway for Stock Car races where people go hoping to see somebody killed I guess; can think of no other reason). Located Junct By 10 & 13 west of Teapot Dome. When the Grape Fine Gets it, suppose I will be considered Lunny.

I take the Odium for T & A Co. One of my large Returns for being a V. P.

The Owner sold me The Works including the Track Equipment. I am a little worried when they see all the Stuff goes along they may be tempted to Operate it. Think they would be better to Stick to the Con'st business.

They can utilize all the Improvements for their purpose hence it is a good Buy at about 60% of Original cost. A good piece of property on a suitable location.

The Ford will be in for the thousand mile Inspection by next "Monday. I am well pleased with it and my P.P. Tires. However I have been kind of Selfish or I will be driving Harold, both Betty & Bruce seem to Itch to get Hold of it. V8 can Jump the Light Car like a Rabbit and of course it is New (Toy) . Maybe your Dad and I can get along with Buick. Your Dad, has been after Bruce to Burn rubbish and clean up around Place but Bruce has been to Trees for Tomorrow at Eagle River and down to The Wolf and if he had any time left he and mean Jim spent it between the Movies and Borems Sport Shop. Yesterday when I came Back from the Stock Yards the Fire Dep't has just departed, Bruce and Jim Lighted the Rubbish with a 30 mile an hour Wind and then decided to try to Control. Inexperience did not consume the Rubbish but all the back lots between W 8th & Arlington are Black.

Fischer goes to Farm every other Day and does the Heavy Work for 2 Days and I go the day between to see we have the entire herd on their feet. So far I have Been accompanied on occasions by Mrs. Parker and Miss Millard. Don't know Whom will be next. I have Bot carefully 17 but they have increased to 19. I keep it quiet as it is too Muddy for the small Girls to Investigate.

Your family Go to the Cabin come week End. I will stick around here.

Love
Grand Dad

May 21st Thur. '53

Dear Joellen,

Bruce has been too busy with the Track Team to do anything he really Enjoys. He keeps Harold going pretty steady and gets over to the Eau Plaine Flowage and Halder Creek either alone or with Jim. He has caught the only Trout in the Family. Five, Good: and Jim got a Wall eye. Good Times was Had by All. Potter and I went up one day to the Rib. He got 3 and I none. I will have te Repeat.

Yesterday Betty went to use Harold. Sitting in the Driveway and the Key in Bruce's Pocket. Fire Works. He carries the key like the Price of Ownership.

Has been Showering since last evening. Just started to Clear Up. Needed the Rain on the Farm. Plenty now. I have 33 mostly Beef, Common Stuff and have taken 54 to Pasture at \$6.00 per head so the place is loaded for the Season. Finally managed to get Labor to Repair the Fences.

Lumber business been Effort; The Finns up at Donken, Mich. are on Strike as usual in May. Had to Pick up Stuff on the Open Market to Substitute. Expect I am over the Worst of it.

Nelsons and Dotsy and Fred Allman came Sat. noon and left Sunday 3:30 P.M. Your People had room for the Three and Fred went to Hotel for Nite. Your Mother & Dad went to News Herald Blow Out Sat. Eve so I took the Guests to Slims. No Drinks but Large Eats. Everybody Packed in a large Size Order. I was kind of doubtful about Myrta's Chicken and Fred's Steak but they were here O.K. Sunday morning.

Nelsons are to Baby Sit June 8th to 18th. After that want us to pick our Date and come to their Lake Cottage. We expect to go.

Saw your letter mentioning June 20th as Vacation Start. Appears you can add on July 4th Week End. Suppose you will go to Lake Superior. Hope you have a few days Vacation Left so you can add on a Week End and Get a week at Christmas.

Just as soon as Donken is going again I will take Time off in Quantity. School is out for Abbotts June 28th, and they Plan to leave for the Cottage that P.M.

Everybody around here is busy Gardening but not me. I have had bother enough on the Farm without the Usual Garden.

Bruce says he will have lots of friends as long as he has Harold to Run. Takes it to school most of the time and always seems to have a load. Guess we will have to give Clark Harold and trade him the Ford for the Buick. The rest of your Family are still after the Ford. I like the Ford and it is excellent Transportation where we have 65 Mile Speed Limit. Runs and Rides like a Pullman. I have not missed Hydromat or Dyna Flow. Comfort not to have wait for the Reverse when it is

needed. Neither am I keen for running Expense on the Gadgets.

I must now Drop my mail so it will not lose 24 hours.

Love
Grand Dad

WILLIAM D. WHEELER

June 23rd '53

Dear Joellen,

Bruce went up with McC's Monday and We take off Thursday A.M. I hope early with Betty and the little Girls for Superior Cottage along with Roasts, Ham & hamburger. We return on July 1st ahead of the Long Week

As soon as we Rest Up from it We will take off for Nelsons at Eagle Lake. I need a couple of Vacations after enduring the Heat and Cold waves. Fluctuates between 90 and 60 degrees. Like Sat. & today. May go to Freemont a day or two between. Just me to mingle with the natives. Seems to be nobody to match time with here.

Cattle are Fenced in tight and can Rustle for themselves until late August. Then I start to unload somewhere between a profit and a loss. Nothing to Stew over.

The Business going smooth probably until the next Strike Somewhere. I don't need Work just exercise.

Well now that the Feasting and Riotious Living are over you better get the few Pounds off before they get Set too tight.

Lake hours, Rum, and Terbacker are not of much value in the process. Rest and unappetizing Diet the Berries. I know.

Painters come tomorrow. I suppose they think it is still about May 1st. Would be more convenient and better were we here but we can not be Bothered with that. Clark will look after them.

We have had Showers off & on and enough water for now. G. K. if more.

Your Dads New ? pushes like a Carpet Sweeper and so far seems to handle Grass about as Well. He is trying to Fathom it. Bruce has abandoned it.

I must go about my Work.

Love
Grand Dad

(That you might enjoy Bapas comments - Please return same - Looks like you could have "it" if you volunteered to haul same away.)

W. D. WHEELER & COMPANY
Marshfield, Wisconsin

7/22/53
Tuesday

Dear Joellen,

We left here on Thursday 9th 8:00 A.M. and arrived in Racine 3: P.M. each all in one piece. I was about over a little Strain in the back when we started (had kept still about it) and felt a little next morning, overlooked the ---- Beauty Crest mattress for 2 days until I broke in two. I took the Bed Boards along (sneaked them) and improved rapidly after I rigged up a Cot. Did not bother to Cramp My Style but I craved a Wrecker for getting out of bed.

Came back in the Rain nice and Cool last Friday 18th. Did not disturb me much except I was tired for a day but I am bettering rapidly.

We had a Dandy time in Racine. Laura had written me "We go to the lake to stay today so I wrote we were coming and later" Thursday P.M. All to Pan Yack Park, per instructions; which gets its Mail in one community Box and you sort out your own. Arrived no sign of life. Got to Phone and called Herb. They picked up my letters on the way in. Don't bother to get their mail often.

Went to Plush Horse in Burlington to Dinner that nite; to Hopes on Saturday; and Schachts on Sunday and They all came to the lake on Wednesday. Weather was Hot but breeze at the lake. I sat around with comfort. Herb has a new Launch, a Dandy fully equipped with a 25 H.P. Outboard Motor. Has about 6 Miles of Nav. water. Says he wishes he had 25 miles. I sad I wished I had his Boat on the 125 Miles available from our place on the Wolf. Herb always had Boats on Lake Mich, when young and raced them. Started for New Orleans once via Chicago, reached Miss. river before Wrecked. Souped up Old Boats. Dotse was Out every other nite. Had a Ford with all the Extras.

Now I am caught up on my work and I need another Vacation, as soon Batty gets back Sunday Nite. Either Glens place on Isadore or Freemont, which was recently cleaned up and is Set to Go. I go to farm only to see Cattle are all there. No Work. I will try to dispose of them in late August as usual.

Love
Grand Dad

W. D. WHEELER & COMPANY
Marshfield, Wisconsin

Sept. 4th, 1953

Dear Joellen,

Grand Mother wishes to know if you arrived Boston alright. We have heard nothing about any Abbotts since the Sunday you started back East. Expect they will Pull In sometime next Week. Tote must have come Wed. but we haven't been within Speaking distance.

I have been stuck to the Doorstep for weeks and some of my associate are now up to Close the trout season by the 7th. Our Heat wave of 8 days close to 92 Broke yesterday from 86 to 62 in the P. M. so I hope to start Rambling soon. Must find some Bum to go along.

Mrs. Huntsicker took us to a Cranberry Marsh close to Black River Falls, 57 mi last Sunday P. M. One of the best if not better and it was a Fine trip. Miss Millard also. Owned and operated by Fine people who Developed it years ago. They have lived south and west as suited them for the past 25 years during the Winter.

So far only 5 bears have been killed between McCormicks Cottage and the Highway. However I guess they stay in Nites, up there.

I an Doing a Little Extra business simply because It required little effort. We have had 3 Light Rains within a week, Greened things Up, during Heat Wave. We will get no more this year of the severe heat. Boston was Up but last 2 days unreported. Suppose all the Thermometers were wrecked.

Mo much News when Nobody around.

Love
Grand Dad

W. D. WHEELER & COMPANY
Marshfield, Wisconsin

Thursday
9/17/53

Dear Joellen,

Everybody has been Moving about. I went up to Glens Place on Isadore close to the Mondeaux Forest to scout around Sat. & Sunday, to find out the condition of the Fire Lanes for Ford travel after Oct 1st. Expect to develop a Dividend for Fall.

Your Grand Mother Got a Driver and went to the Paper Inn on Sunday to dinner.

I am all For such Capers. She is just back from D.A.R. and takes a guest to Presby. Turkey dinner at 5.30 and to Board meeting at 7 P. Full Day.

I was going to be away but Skidded a little so am dining home on Oat Meal. Not wanted at such a dinner. Think I could safely Eat it.

I have been too Busy but am out of it for now. Sheckles are coming alright.

Your Dad is off Bidding 3 Jobs today and Nite. Your mother is going to meet at Wis. Rapids for Dinner. Bruce is House Holder.

Weather Dry but Good 60 to 75 De. Had a record Killing Frost on the 12th. Caught the Gardens and Counties thick with Corn. Being put in Silos Madly. No harm, they always get caught around here. Hoping for Ripe Corn.

Bruce keeps Harold Shined Up. Seems to Schoeffler for Beverly Blancher often and attends the Out Door Movies. Says he has lots of friends since he has a car. Written Out.

Love
Grand Dad

St. Pete
Sat. 12/11/54

Dear Joellen:

Your good letter came a few days since, and I'll answer my part Pronto. Thanks for the information; I wanted to be sure on auto coverage as I made so many changes about July 1st.

We have had 2 unusual days the first week and one last week. 37-40° x 66-72 balance 50-75°s latter & lower brings out the fur capes - jackets and if you have neither, fur earrings; with other apparel of course not too much. I call weather fine but the tourists who dress for summer, straw hats and shorts, appear shivering.

We are resting up and will not make any trips until after Christmas. Little Pete is fast and happy on the crutches.

We ride every P.M. in the sunshine 25-30 miles.

Harry and I spend the A.M. shopping and on errands.

St. Pete has single channel, city owned, T.V. about 25% direct cable is good. Expect more good after Jan. 1st.

I caught Eagle-49ers pro game on 4 times in one week.

Remember me to Dan and Mr. & Mrs. Hagge. I'll write again if anything interesting develops.

Love
Grand Dad

Last day 1954

Dear Joellen and Dan,

Thanks for all the Christmas Gifts; and the Good Tidings for June, are much appreciated. We like authentic information.

We went to Kerskers for Christmas breakfast and their tree was loaded as at Abbotts usually. Tree includes the room.

Polley asked her mother to look at her corner of the room. It just reached half way across.

We ride locally every day and usually a trip downtown, 14 miles extra. Have done no touring.

Went to the beach Wednesday. Nice weather this week 55-78 but the surf bathing and lying on wet sand is for the young, tough and hardy. I guess it contributes to the colds and flu which act just about as they do in the north. There was a lot in Dec. which I think is the winterest month.

We have not dined cut as yet, but plenty in. We will be touring to Fort Meyers soon but it is only a one or two-day affair.

We will then drive the Skyway causeway. We have seen the approach but so far avoided the \$1.75 toll. That is to save about 40 miles going south.

Little Pete Kersker is off his crutches but has had flu. We offered them the house again but they feel they cannot go for winter sports and leave little Peter.

My tubes are much, much better.

Love
Grand Dad

Friday 1/14/55

Dear Joellen and Dan:

I do not try to remember what I write; only when.

I shall thank you both for the Christmas presents, all in one sentence and I sure appreciate them. They arrived first Kiplinger, then membership and last cheese. All in fine condition.

For anybody paying no income tax, I sure worked out a long credit on the 8 different forms I had to complete. No two alike.

I cannot foresee any effect, for future years.

We have had fine 50-75 weather all Jan. up to now. Today will be 38-62 and I seem to be the only one around here who is acclimated.

You must get used to the humidity.

Myrta and Ann have entrenched themselves in the Canasta business; and Harry and I can see how good it is for them. We go to Tampa on those days and hob-nob with the beer drinkers.

Maybe I told you Tampa was nearer our ages than St. Pete. About on a par with the Livestock Ex. in Marshfield. On other days Harry and I shope in A.M. All go for a ride of an hour or two in P.M. or a movie and watch old. channel 38 for a couple of hours in the evening.

I do not serve breakfast at 5:00 A.M. Help at 8:30 to prepare for 9:00 o'clock. We fold up at 10:00 P.M. so it's the lazy life. I think its my nice light little woolen undershirt that beats the humidity 60-96 points.

Harry has an extra good oil heater and it really is enough.

I still do not want any T.V. since no single channel. The Navy won from Miss, on New Years and twice since on #38. We get all the good stuff in our two hours except one A.M. program.

I sure am glad you will have the baby in June and I presume from what I hear you are going along all right.

Kerskers is just about as busy and lively as Abbots. Except only one cat. Polley adopted a stray. Won a prize at the local cat show. Was only one of its breed. They must keep both cat and a boxer in house or pen. Not much in the latter.

There really isn't much news to impart. I am just one of the oldsters rusting out at St. Pete.

Love
Grand Dad

Monday, Feb. 7th, 55

Dear Joellen,

I'll answer promptly my portion of your letter.

We were both interested in the clippings. My paid correspondent, Priscilla, gives me excellent service on the Mead Flowage, Farm items and Lost & Found Cattle. She scans thru them in the usual locations daily.

It is good your examination is favorable; altho no particular reason it should be otherwise.

We look forward to giving a cocktail party shortly after we return and I guess about 30-40 will cover it. Failed to get it in late last fall.

Grandmother is not too keen for this season's Florida weather, about two days per week 40-65 with high humidity and tourists all shiver during it. Other five days 50-60 and 55-75. Wind cool 25-30 miles per hour, a breeze always and as soon as you are in shade a jacket or sweater is a must except with the young.

Natives carry a wrap it is still late winter here, Kids have quilted jackets. I seem to be acclimated and as I will not sacrifice comfort for a coat of tan, which is no novelty to me, I get along fine during the full week. Sit in the sun when it's cool, in the shade when it's warm. Goes good on the B-Tubes.

We have made no trips. Why? Trying for a fit for four people. Expect to get one soon. Neither many nor far this year.

Ned Fleming and I keep in touch by phone on Abbott family doings. I'll tell them of postponement on their return tomorrow from Fort Myers.

Pete and Marjorie have us all over often to (meals) dinners usually and it is very nice of them.

Feb'y is supposed to be the nicest month and it has started out well. We ride nearly every day and go out to meals more or less. Early to bed and late to rise makes the days short. Watch T.V. a couple of hours in the evening.

We will start back as soon as Wisconsin weather moderates, probably late March. We will have to decide from the weather reports.

We are looking forward to the arrival of the Abbotts.

Love
Grand Dad

Jan. 10/54 (55 ?)

Dear Joellen,

Send me a card if you do not get a basket of selected grapefruit and temple oranges promptly.

If you do get them, please divide with the Hans Haggas with my compliments.

Abbotts have a separate basket so are not your problem.

I have been occupied but will write more soon.

Love
Grand Dad

Oct 26th, 51?

Dear Joellen

Thought I wrote you one short letter. Have dim recollection of addressing it. Sorry to over look our correspondence but I have been trying to hunt with a willowey back. Gets better and then I go a little harder I guess and then it gets worse. Betty says I never gave it a chance since last July. Wedding, Superior, early season here and then Glen and I to Michigan. Really had to go for business but we put in 7 days at it and had one fine time, and enough birds. Glen took his family up on Saturday and Sunday to show them the country in color Oct 1st season. I went up alone on Friday and had La Rine's big cottage. Needed oil burner and refrigerator to keep birds. They dropped Glen off Sunday P.M. and left for home. Glen likes the country up there as I do in the fall. We mine both copper and silver.

I got along without much discomfort until 2 weeks since. Guess I hurt it again. Not as bad but not so good for a week. Been taping, deep heat treatments. Sleep alright. Boards sometimes out and then in.

Potter fell on his steps from top and landed on his back on bottom step. A week since and he has fractured vertibre. No cast but it takes time. He is disappointed not to be able to go to Freemont. He was there for opening and had good luck. I only stood it an hour and then went easy,.
(Confidential-haywire back)

Clark and Tommy went this P.M. for weekend. I will go again when I get my back fixed for it. Oh yes. Dinah who does well.

Love
Grand Dad

Monday
? Oct. 12, 51

Dear Joellen

After the freeze up we had a few days and today 50 above and rain so now we will have slippery mud. Will either dry up some or freeze up again soon I surmise but this is the year of surprises. The hunting season is over for your Dad and Bruce but I'll likely go deer hunting some 17 to 23rd. My back is good enough if favored and the wheezes are not too bad. Mostly stand and watch. O.K. if I am warm.

We had to get cattle out and close up farm in a hurry when it went to 2 above and I had closed up Freemont fortunately the day before. As usual I had to do it but I had 2 standbys to help me and as we found ducks gone we stayed over nite and closed up next day. The business is set for & to end of year so I have not much to do. Hardwood lumber is not moving so easy and I am getting much quicker shipment on the high priced items. Lower grades of beef cattle are down 25% - 30% but young and small replacement cattle are up about 20% against a year ago, of normal situation.

Glen had stomach trouble at Freemont again and one fellow told his wife he came home because one fellow was hanging on to his stomach and the other to his back. We can both get around by the 17th.

Your mother and the little girls had some time in Chicago. Seorseths were over from Winona for the week end and I judge "a good time was had by all." We had the girls to dinner and gave them partridge and nobody got home to look after them until 10 00 P. M. on Saturday nite. Our snow is all gone. We had only 2" but it was tough stuff. Harold goes into storage same as last year tomorrow. Not worth effort to scrape frost on one car each time it's used. Two are enough in the winter anyway.

Understand we will be seeing you about Dec. 15th which is good.

Love
Grand Dad

Saturday
Nov. 17th, 1951

Dear Joellen,

Was nice to get your letter. It's 2 weeks today since I had shakes & fever which was elusive until the following Wednesday when I went to Hospital . In ten days I absorbed penicillin # \$6.30 and \$34.80 aeromicen. Had not too violent lobular pneumonia again and maybe I never was completely over it since last spring. Came home this noon and feel "strong and well" like a Chinaman full of Gin seng.

Had good attention and we are not looking for another recurrence as that is what it appeared to be.

I want pretty steady and maybe too hard from July on; this summer and fall. Went the full long bird season 2 days on and 2 days off but folded up just one week before deer season. Was all set to go so I will be already to ro next year without further preparation.

Zero and now bright and sunny. Betty is taking Myrta out for a short ride and I'll have to rest an hour or two pretty soon.

Your Dad, Bruce and Rices, Father and son left 7:00 A.M. for Mpls to see Wis. Min. Big 10 game. They are coming back tonite. 400 Miles and a jam at the game. Everybody to his own idea of a "good time."

Business has been good and will continue bal of year with about ½ my attention. I've had about 5 months off except for supervision. Expense is non important.

Love
Grand Dad