

December 2, 1957

Dear Carolyn and Buster

Thanks for your letter of Nov. 26.

I certainly feel like a heel for not writing. Carl and I have thought about you constantly. We don't have any good excuses except that I am notoriously slow at writing. Actually I've written only one letter since I got here and that was to Mother. I intend to write Ray and Charlie today - also Mrs. Brownlow.

The topics do slow you down. We don't have anywhere near as much energy as we did, and the children seem to have more. We got our Xmas presents early and are in the midst of sending out our Xmas cards. There are lots of parties down here - usually two or three a week. The social life has taken an awful lot of our time. Everyone has been very friendly to us. In fact the hospitality would do credit even to Auntie. We had to give a party in return - we did - last Thanksgiving Eve. The children all have good teachers and the schools seem to be well run.

We have a Panamanian maid who cooks breakfast,  
lunch and dinner. Five days a week and lives in with us.  
This has been a big relief to land, and in one of the  
seasons we are enjoying Panama. Our house is on the edge  
of the jungle on a hill overlooking Barro Colorado locks.  
It's actually three stories with a tile roof and aqua  
media above the second floor. (Aqua media are roofs  
extending from lower floors for sun and rain shelter of  
open windows on lower floors. They extend all way  
around the house). The first floor contains a car port for the  
car, a maid's room and bath, laundry, storeroom, and ~~is~~ a  
concrete recreation room. It has no walls except for the  
maid's room. The second floor (and the third) is tiled throughout.  
This is a tremendous convenience. It contains a kitchen  
dining room and living room. Kitchen has stainless steel  
sink and water throughout. There is also a half bath.  
The third floor has four bedrooms. Three of them large.  
There are two baths - all tile. The basic construction of  
the house is concrete. There is not a pane of glass of any  
description in a door or a window anywhere in the  
entire house. The doors and windows are screened and

lawred but that is all. There are no heating devices of any kind - we don't need them at any time of the year. We therefore don't need the glass either. Each room has large banded windows - in fact all exterior walls are filled with banded windows. Our bedroom has 14 such. If there is any breeze (and there usually is) it comes right in. It does not get as hot as the warmest days in Huntsville in the summer - but the humidity is high. We have not been uncomfortable from the heat or the rain. It rains hard for about an hour - usually each day during the rainy season. They are thunderstorms and pretty fierce ones too. Rain does not bother us - we never use raincoats.

The Canal dominates the life of the Republic of Panama. Many Panamanians work for the U.S. government agencies in the zone. A great deal of the U.S. payroll goes into the Panamanian economy. Panama City has Chinese, Hindu, American, and native merchants. Most of them are only too glad to charge \$55 for an item which should sell for \$5. There are some good buys if one is careful. Generally the U.S. commissaries and post exchangers in the zone are the most reliable places to shop.

I was reading some of Carol's mail and came across  
a cancelled check to you for \$2300; so I guess I better  
settle with her. We think this was a bargain. We credit  
you with saving our skins. When you said "I'm with you all  
the way" you really stuck to it. We want to thank you  
again <sup>also</sup> for all the nice things you did for us that had  
little to do with the trial.

I have been told very specifically that I am not to  
discuss mine's matter with newspaper men. Before  
I put Turk broke. Some fellow came all the way from the States,  
and I told him I couldn't talk. Apparently I've got to  
keep quiet or I'll be boarded out of the dump.

We want you all to come visit us as soon as you  
can. You are invited for as long as you care to stay. We  
have a room for you. All we have to do is be sure  
Carol's parents aren't here at the same time. They expect  
to come in January. Why don't you all plan for February or March  
or both. Carol and I really want you to come.

With much affection,  
Jack Dickson

P.S. Think I can be more frank about not writing.  
We have been afraid of the C.I. (opening our outgoing  
mail. We had and still have lots of enemies in  
Washington who were gunning for me. No one locally  
is mixed up in it, but an incident occurred which made  
me certain that Wilson and Ogden (T. G.) were looking  
for something else to hit me with. I have been afraid  
until very recently to write any thing but the most  
harmless letters until Wilson and Ogden had  
safely left.

Please say hello to all the Auntzville folks for us.  
We expect to visit each of them soon. We would like  
to see them and especially the ones in Bell, morning,  
and Richardson. Please say hello to Pat, Carl, Frank, and  
Jim and their wives and to May Jones, Mrs. McQuigg,  
and Mrs. Moon.