9-20-1965

1965-09-20, Bette to Parents

Bette J. Barto

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This collection contains 139 correspondence from Maj. Bette J. Barto, USAFE to her parents while serving as a nurse during the late 1950s and 1960s. Also included are three photographs, one special orders document, and one marriage license. In several cases, Bette refers to her parents as "Lizzie" and "Hugh Elmer," or simply "Elmer." Three letters from 1961 or 1962 are undated and placed in a separate folder.

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Air Mail

Mr. & Mrs. N. E. Harris
1717 Highland Avenue
Knoxville 16, Tennessee 37916

Sept 20, 65 - 15 yrs ago fot state
Monday 5:30 a.m. 20 Sept. 65

Dear Mom, Daddy,

Augh! 15 years ago day and tomorrow I was taking State Board exams in Nashville — and it does seem that long to me! I feel as if I've washed white hose and blue string every day of my life. In time if I feel this way, you must, Mom, after doing it since 1941, as a steady diet.

I'm not usually this morose on Monday a.m., but I've been on call all weekend and that makes me feel as if I've never had a day off. I didn't get an operating room call all weekend, but did have to dress & go make rounds at 0730 both Sat. & Sun. and then sit by the phone the rest of the time. It poured rain both days. So Ray & the goodles slept much of it. I came home and went back to bed myself at 11 a.m. both days - it was that kind of weekend.
We were to have gotten started on street paving this day, but now we wait some more in hubcap-deep mud. Ray got the brush out through it yesterday and parked it on the street so the boys both have cars for work today. We were worried about possible hail storms all last evening but they didn't materialize here so we didn't have to choose between car damage and getting to work.

We are driving right through the Boeing Aircraft Strike picket lines (only un-suddy Way to work) but so far it's all been very orderly. They just look and stop any the cars turning up at any of the plant gates. They were out there at all the whole weekend downpour. I understand their complaints, but I don't agree with them entirely because we have the same rating system in the Air Force but are unable to strike — just to complain.

Mom, I hate to admit it, but I have heard not one word from Nan to even acknowledge receipt of your beautiful table cloth! I can't imagine that she is that unkind. Really thing I can think of is that this upset cause her to being up in Japan, but that's no excuse; so I'm writing her a card today.
This really makes me wish I had kept it for my selfish self. I know she doesn't like to write but this is shameful.

Ray seems almost well except for complaining that food doesn't taste right. I suppose that's caused by the antibiotics he's been on for 10 days. I hope that will clear soon. He was about picking at food trying to find something that "tastes right."

I have an extra day off this coming Thursday to make up for this week and so, if I can get an appointment, I am finally going to get a permanent. I have finally reached the point I can't bear to pull my straight hair a little each time.

We've ordered bulbs and some trees for spring—they should be arriving any day now for planting. If we can find a dry day, that is. We need to fertilize and more also to get the grass ready to withstand the winter. I wonder how the human hair's plants will take it? Yes! I don't relish it and I still haven't gotten my 60 overweight cut down to fit me. Ray doesn't own one his swears he won't buy one.

I'm glad you are pleased with your
ear and that you got it before bad weather begins. I worried about your bug struggling through another winter. Ray is beginning to have problems with his V8 too. He had it in the shop 2x for a starter problem and it's still not right. I hope the car holds out a few years more. We need to be spending our money on something besides wheels. We will order storm windows this week or next - as soon as the street dries out enough to let in workmen. I think that will help with heat and cleaning problems as well as increase the resale value of the house. We will get them through Mr. English so they don't cost us the retail price.

Well, lay's up & better get my bed made & get the poodles brushed before I get in my traveling duds.

Write!

I still haven't found a proper box for your biz, but I haven't forgotten.

Love,

[Signature]

Bette & Kay