

## Swanson Family Letters

Collected by Ruth Swanson

Collated and preserved by Betty and Elaine Swanson (Ruth's daughters)

Digitized and transcribed by Dave Carlson (son of Lorraine Swanson/Carlson)

### Notes on letters and transcriptions

Over the course of 50 years, from 1940 to 1991, a group of 5 women, members (mostly by marriage) of the family of Anna and Ernest Swanson, maintained semi-regular correspondence by letter or, occasionally, by card or postcard. For most of those years those writers shared news of family, friends and offspring, also of travel and weather. Ruth Swanson, married to Clarence Swanson and living near San Francisco, saved letters and cards she received. From that collection, alertly preserved by Ruth's daughters Betty and Elaine, we gain a rare, incomplete, but informative view of the lives of first and second generation Scandinavian immigrants as they dispersed across the USA.

We find only a pair of messages from their mother (or mother-in-law) Anna, rescued by Barbara Swanson, daughter of Harry and Virginia Swanson. We never 'hear' first hand from Ruth. If others among the correspondents saved letters - within which we might identify Ruth's letters - those collections have not emerged. What Ruth saved, however, provides us with a remarkable window into and record of our families.

During years that Dave worked in the UK, he would often travel in mid-December to an international conference in San Francisco. During those trips Dave made several visits to see Evelyn, Betty and Elaine (along with other Swanson cousins) at their home in Redwood City. On one of those visits, Betty showed Dave the notebook they had kept holding letters that their mother Ruth had collected. During a repeat visit a year later, Dave borrowed that notebook and spent several useful hours copying its contents to digital files. Taking advantage of graceful cursive handwriting, Dave transcribed all the letters. (Multiple copies of letters and transcripts exist in a double-safe archive.) Now, before we all forget, Dave seeks to reprocess, re-expose and share those letters through web technology.

### The main characters / **writers**:

**Anna** (as) (1882- ) and Ernest Swanson (1879-1954). Swedish immigrants, farmers in Illinois.

Sons: Arthur, married **Lovina** (ls), lived in southern Wisconsin

Carl, married **Elsa** Seastrom (es), lived near Chicago

Elmer, soldier, died in WW II in Europe

Clarence, married **Ruth** Kjlilbak, lived in Redwood City, California

Harry, married **Virginia** (vs), lived in Bakersfield California

Daughter: **Lorraine** (lc), married Robert Carlson, lived near Chicago then in Tennessee.

In this version, one finds 74 letter transcriptions ordered by date, earliest to latest. Verbatim except in rare instances where I added, in brackets, corrected spelling. Ruth also saved cards, e.g. holiday greeting or get well cards; unless those contain specific dates I have not included them.

<b>1940-12-02</b> (2 December 1940)	Post date: 1940-12-03	Postmark: Kankakee, IL
From: Lorraine Swanson	To: Clarence Swanson	
From: 442 S Chicago Kankakee, Ill.	To: 527 Grant Avenue Vallejo, California	
Pages: 3	Trip to California	

Kankakee, Ill.

Dec. 2. 1940.

Dearest Clarence

I just finished reading your letter a second time, which I received tonite.

I am glad to that you really want me to come and I will try to do my best not to disappoint you.

I told them at work today, that I was leaving. Boy, I was scared but I finally got it over with. They were very nice about it.

I am going to take the "Pacific Limited" on the Northwestern. It leaves Chicago at 11:35 Wednesday (Dec 18) morning and arrives in San Francisco at 9:30 Friday nite (Dec 20). It comes into Market Street Station at Ferry Depot. Be sure to meet me. I hope the train doesn't get snowbound, someplace out in Desert. That would take the cake.

As for Harry knowing, I am sorry to inform you that he already knows. The Erlandsons, wrote to Mrs Thayer, and of course she told Harry. So that is how it goes. I was so disappointed, that spoils half the fun.

I was home over the week end. We were all invited to Lowery's for dinner, yesterday. It was very good, and we had a very nice time.

Boy, is it every cold here. It will be about zero tonite. Gee, I hate to think of walking to work in the morning. Well, my friend I am freezing so I will have to go to bed to keep warm.

I will be at Verona, Ill from the 14th to the 18th, so in case you want to reach me at the last minute, you had better contact me there.

Goodbye now, and I hope to see you soon.

Love, Lorraine

Be sure to meet my train, or I will be in a mell of a hess. I would feel safer if you sent me Ruth's address or telephone number, so in case anything should happen, I would have someplace to call.

<b>1941-06-10</b> (10 June 1941)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Anna Swanson	To: Harry & Virginia Swanson	
From: Elgin (Illinois)	To: California	
Pages: 2	Family news	

Elgin June 10

Dearest Harry &amp; Virginia

Thanks for the letters we have been getting and also for the picture of Wayne he looks so big and nice I am wondering how he is now hope he is home by now.

Last sunday Walter & Grace and Mrs. Erlandson cam upp here the showed us the pictures of the trip they had and also of Kenny and Wayne it was so nice I only wish I could of took them in my arms.

I expect you know by now that Grace and Walter bought a house in santa ana they intend to move there in the fall they hade a picture of the house it is cute but of corse you folks will see it soon I hope you go down to see Mrs. E. some time she will move with them.

We are all-right but it reans [rains] all the time so they mens cant get the work don

I dont think I wrote to you since we got our new car a 1940 Chevy 13 tousen miles the old one was all wore out.

We had a letter from Clarence last week they were moving last sunday to San Francisco but they did not know any adr, so Ruht [Ruth] said they would write again soon.

Good by love to all from us all. Mother

DJC notes: Someone (Barbara Swanson?) inserted '1942'. From topic and sequence, 1941 seems more likely.

<b>1941-11-05</b> (5 November 1941)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Anna Swanson	To: Virginia & Harry Swanson	
From: Verona (Illinois)	To: California	
Pages: 2	Family news	

Verona Nov. 5

Dearest Virginia & Harry

Thanks Virginia for your nice letters.

I am so sorry to think about Clarences but it could been wurst.

We still have nothing but rean [rain] it dont look very good but we will still be hoping for to get our crops.

I am bessy every day to day I whent to Laidis aid yesterday I washt my drapes the look so good.

Grace is visiting in Seneca this week so they will be coming out some day.

Carl got his new tractor now but he wont be able to do anny ploing upp north on acont of all the rean it is 15 years sence we hade so much rean in the fall.

Boby Severson was over here the other night he said he was so sorry he did not se yous when you were her.

Arts have now a other car a 38 Chev. it looks real good.

Please tell me if Harry got that letter with the birthsetificot in it.

No Virginia I dont want you to think the Children worryd me.

I dont know if there ever was any thing we all enjoyed so much as them 2 [?] weeks you folks was with us and to me it was the greatest thing you could ever done.

love mother.

DJC notes: The original letters recorded day and month but not year. Someone, in a different hand with different ink, wrote '(1942)' on the 'first' letter. Harry and Virginia visited Illinois in the early 1940s, bringing Kenny and Wayne (Wayne as an infant). Photos show Anna and Ernest holding an infant (probably Wayne) in photos dated (by Lorraine and Harry) as around 1941. Photos also dated 1941 (again by Lorraine and/or Harry) record that Anna and Ernest, with their children Harry, Elmer, Lorraine, Carl, and Art, and with their grandchildren Wayne, Harry and Vincent (Art's son), visited Brookfield Zoo, near Chicago, very likely in the summer and probably on the same trip as recorded by the other photos. If these two letters go in sequence, they imply that a visit occurred in 1941(?), after the first letter before the second. If the infant in both sets of pictures represents Wayne, we can perhaps correct the dates for letters and pictures by knowing the year of Wayne's birth..

<b>1944-09-10</b> (10 September 1944)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Virginia Swanson	To: Clarence & Ruth Swanson	
From: Arvin, California	To: California	
Pages: 2	Family news	

Arvin, California

Sept. 10, 1944

Dear Clarence and Ruth:

I should have written before to tell you that Kenny got the birthday money you sent and to thank you for it, but it seems that there are always more things to do than I get done. He got money from my aunts too, so we put it together and got him a large blackboard and a game. He also got clothes and other toys, so he thought he was pretty smart.

He and I both started school last Monday. He in the first grade and I in the sixth. However, I hope to get through about October first, as one of the teachers couldn't come till then. Kenny likes school fine. He has a very nice teacher - she came from Morris, Illinois.

Harry still has his headache. He has been to 2 different doctors in the past 2 weeks, and they too insist that there is nothing wrong with him, yet he feels miserable most of the time. He was off work 2 days this week, but is better again. He going to have some allergy tests made to see is sawdust or something like that could cause it.

My brother is still sick too. He was better and had gone back to work, but got worse again. He is a little better today. We hope he'll be well soon.

There have been several accidents to Arvin people lately. The youngest Mitchell boy, Louis, was killed 2 weeks ago today in an accident. About 10 days ago Mrs. Sayer and Mrs. Yotz were killed, and this week a baby was killed in an accident right down town.

It has been unusually hot here this past week. The farmers are making raisins, and they really dry in a hurry.

I have been canning a few pears, and that is a hot job.

The boys are growing so fast. Kenny has so many interests now that he is in school. Wayne stays with my folks while I work. He likes it so much that he wants to move over. He says we can come and see him sometimes.

This has been such a busy summer for us. We had a Child Evangelism class at the church all summer. Our group also sponsors a Fun Night for the young people each week. And we have been canning and working in the garden, and going to other meetings and things. It seems that we are just rushed all the time. We didn't go on any vacation. Harry

had a few days off, but he worked on his garage. It isn't finished yet, but will be very nice when it does get done.

Well I better stop for this time. Write when you have time, we always like to hear from you.

Love, Virginia.

P. S. Harry says to tell you that we have a phone. Our number is 224J.

DJC notes: Virginia typed this letter.

<b>1947-08-19</b> (19 August 1947)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Lorraine Swanson	To: Ruth & Clarence Swanson	
From: Geneva, Illinois	To: California	
Pages: 4	Family news	

August 19, 1947

Geneva, Illinois

Dear Ruth and Clarence,

It seems the more time I have the less I get done, especially letter writing.

Thank you Ruth for the past two I have had from you. It always seems so good to hear from you.

Dad is up north with Art and Lovina. He has been up there four weeks today. I am expecting him to come next Sunday. We are going up there for a picnic. Clara & Rheinhold are going along too.

I had Mrs Lowery & Ester and the Richard Lowery family, and Clara and Rheinhold here for dinner and supper one Sunday. Mrs Lowery wasn't feeling very well that day, but I have heard since that she is better. Of course she is 84 so we can't expect her to last much longer.

I am still home, getting more spoiled every day. So far I haven't found anything I really want in the line of work, so I just go on being lazy. I am not the least bit bored, but I am getting broke, so I guess it can't last much longer. It has been wonderful to have time to do so many things I can't do when I work. I usually go back to bed after Carl leaves. I go swimming when I feel like it, or I go into Oak Park or Chicago every once in a while. And I have been doing lots of reading, which I thoroughly enjoy. So all in all it has been a very enjoyable summer.

Ruth, would you please look up and see whose recording you have of "Oh Come All Ye Faithful". I remember when I heard it I thought it was wonderful, and I would like to get it. We have a new combination radio and phonograph console set, and we are trying to get our record supply built up a little bit.

I had a letter from Anna Mae not long ago. They have another little girl. They named her Kay Anne. She said they were expecting Thayers in September. You know, they are on a long trip.

I'll bet your little girls are darling. I would love to see them. Why don't you come to Illinois?

How is your father feeling, Ruth?

Dad wants to know how the housing project is developing.

Now I will say goodbye for this time.

Love, Lorraine

DJC notes: Notes (by Ruth?) at the bottom: Decca, (DLA 1557), Adeste Fideles, Francis Langford with Eddie Dunstedter on the organ. 2188B.

<b>1947-12-23</b> (23 December 1947)	Post date: 1947-12-26	Postmark: Arvin, California
From: Virginia Swanson	To: Mrs. Clarence Swanson	
From: Arvin, California	To: 218 Hillview Redwood City, California	
Pages: 3	Family news	

Arvin Calif

Dec 23, 1947

Dear Ruth,

We were happy to hear that you folks may come to visit us soon. I surely hope that you can. It has been over a year since you were here, and we'd like to visit with you again and see the children. So do come if you can.

Barbara and I came home from the hospital just a week ago today. We are both doing fine. I was happy to learn that she was born on your birthday. (I thought your birthday was in July.) She was supposed to arrive about January first, but I had some complications, and the doctor thought it would be better not to wait any longer. So we chose the 10th and happened to hit your birthday.

She is a good baby. She weighed 6 lbs - 16 oz. when she was born. She has black hair. And she is really sweet.

The boys have started their Christmas vacation. Today they are helping my dad butcher a pig. They are all excited about Christmas - keep rattling the packages and wondering what they are. The program at the church is tonight. I wish I could see it as both boys are in it. Tomorrow night the folks and Laurance & Colleen are coming over to open the gifts. And Christmas day we will be at Mom's.

Harry is busy as usual. Just now he is adding a bathroom to a house, next week he plans to start a house for Les Davis about 10 miles south of town, and he has work to do in Bakersfield if he ever gets to it.

I hope you folks have a nice Christmas, and do come down when you can.

Love, Virginia

<b>1948-05-16</b> (16 May 1948)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Miss Lorraine Swanson	To: Ruth Swanson	
From: 301 Dodson Street Geneva, Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 1	Family news	

Miss Lorraine Swanson

301 Dodson Street - Geneva, Illinois

May 16, 1948

Dear Ruth,

Thanks a million for letting us know how Clarence is getting along.

We are glad that it is over, and sincerely hope that he can soon be out again.

If you need any help, please let us know. We can manage to do something.

Dad is feeling much better. Has his garden all planted, but it is terribly wet so it isn't growing very.

This is only a note tonight, as I have a dozen to do, but just wanted to let you know that we are very anxious to know how things are going.

Love, Lorraine

DJC notes: First instance of 'Miss Lorraine Carlson' stationary

<b>1948-06-14</b> (14 June 1948)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Miss Lorraine Swanson	To: Clarence & Ruth Swanson	
From: 301 Dodson Street Geneva, Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 2	Family news	

Miss Lorraine Swanson

301 Dodson Street - Geneva, Illinois

June 14, 1948

Dear Clarence & Ruth,

How is everything at your house tonight. Better I hope.

We are all pretty good. Busy as usual.

You should see our house. It is a terrible mess. They started today to put in a new heating system. And it means changing all the radiators. They are putting in gas hot water heat and are using baseboard radiators, so there is plaster, dirt, and everything all over. But it will be nice when it is finished, so I guess I shouldn't mind the mess.

We were up to Art's a little while yesterday. They are pretty good, except Karen and Richard had the measles. I felt so sorry for them, they felt so tough. Vincent had gotten over them about a week ago.

Dad is sending some money as you can see for Betty's birthday. However, use it for anything you want.

Everytime I write to you it seems that it is late and I am tired so I can't think very straight, result of which it seems that a note is the best I can do. Some day I'll surprise you and write a long letter.

Goodnight now, and let us know how you are getting along.

Love, Lorraine

Happy Birthday to Betty and lots of love to both of them.

1949-03-02 (2 March 1949)	Post date: indistinct	Postmark: Geneva, Illinois
From: Elsa Swanson	To: Clarence & Ruth Swanson	
From: 301 Dodson Street Geneva, Illinois	To: 218 Hillview Ave Redwood City, California	
Pages: 4	Family news	

March 2, 1949 Wednesday 8:00 a.m.

Dear Clarence & Ruth,

Every day I have been wanting to write some letters which I owe but it seems like there's always so many other things to be done and places to go.

Today is the day that grandpa leaves for sunny California, leaving 7:30 this evening and should arrive Friday, before this letter I suppose. He's been feeling very well lately and would be perfect if it were not for that asthma. Watch to see that he does not eat anything which contains wheat or chocolate. He's supposed to use milk sparingly and can have eggs in cooking but not as they are. No raw onions since the clinic in Nebraska has found him to be allergic to these things. Now I'll have to burn the waste paper, shake the rugs, go to the store and etc. myself since he helped me with those things. We hope the California climate will agree with him.

It was interesting to see the pictures of all the snow you have had around there. There has been a lot of talking and joking about it around here. We haven't had much snow but we had a long lasting coating of ice which has been very hazardous to many. There had been quite a few wrecks and broken bones resulting from it and it is a relief to walk on dry walks again. The temperature keeps around the 30° mark but we know that spring is just around the corner for the robins are making their appearance.

We think it is wonderful that Clarence has found work that he likes and hope that his health will permit him to keep at it for a long time. It must make it much easier for all of you. I think it very remarkable the way you managed before and still kept so cheerful.

Often think of those two darling little daughters you have. Are they just a lively & gay? I suppose they're growing fast.

While I think of it I'd better go upstairs & see if I can find those negatives you asked for - I believe I have them all now. Am including some taken in San Francisco & Stanford too in case you want them. My favorite is the one of Betty walking on the curbing. Grandpa is taking an enlargement of that along in his suitcase for you to have.

We finally had our wedding pictures developed but have no folders for them. Pop could just as well bring the proofs along with him too; then you could let us know whether you would like the picture of the group or of the two of us or others.

You people must come here sometime and see the moving pictures we took out there. The girls' red jumpers look pretty in colored pictures.

You asked for some suggestions for a wedding gift. That really isn't necessary but if you want to give something we could use a set of bookends for the desk. I just love all kinds of vases, figurines of birds or anything. It would also be very nice to have a set of doilies for vanity dresser & chest of drawers. My brother sent us a spread for Christmas.

This will have to be all for now. Thanks a lot for writing and please write again soon.

Best regards to all - Elsa & Carl



<b>1950-05-26</b> (26 May 1950)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Bob & Lorraine Carlson	To: Mr Kjlilbak (Ruth' father)	
From:	To: California	
Pages: 1	Thank you note	

May 26, 1950

Dear Mr. Kjlilbak -

Thank you very much for the peach bath towels you gave us as a wedding gift.

They are very pretty and we appreciate you thoughtfulness.

Thank you too for being our guide in San Francisco.

Sincerely,

Bob & Lorraine

DJC notes: Thank you note, written by Lorraine. Saved by Ruth. Did her father live with them?

<b>1951-02-25</b> (25 February 1951)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Elsa Swanson	To: Ruth & Clarence Swanson	
From: Illinois	To: California	
Pages: 2	Family news	

2/25/51

Dear Ruth & Clarence,

We certainly are happy that little Elaine is improving. Hope her diarrhea condition will clear up. When Danny had too thick liquid for the nipple I used to slit the nipple with the point of a scissor and it worked fine.

I'm very sorry I've been so slow in answering your letters. This, I believe, is the first time I've done any writing since New Year's Eve.

Danny wished to thank Betty and Evelyn for those cards he received. I intend to save them so he can enjoy them when he gets bigger. He hasn't learned to walk yet but he gets around very well in his little walker. He can say a few words now, especially car and "cock" which is clock. He's really interested in those two things.

Well Lorraine & Bob have evened it up now by having a son. That makes 6 boys and 6 girls for grandpa. They are calling him David John Carlson. Lorraine is home now still feels weak for she had a little rough time of it. The baby weighed 8 lbs 3 oz. when they brought him home and was 7 lbs 13 oz at birth. He seems to be doing O.K. sleeps 4 to 5 hours between feedings.

We have been quite busy in this house the past couple months tearing off old wallpaper putting on new and having done quite a bit of painting. Carl has done it all himself and it sure seems good for the place really needed a rejuvenation.

We've had a very stiff winter. It was constantly snowing since way before Christmas and it still hasn't melted away. The temperature went down to about 25 below zero and it

seemed like there was a sub zero cold wave the whole winter with hardly a break - Bad on the coal bill. Its been wonderful with gas heat.

Well I'd better quit now for I owe everybody a letter and its a good time to get caught up while its quiet in the house.

We decided to give Elaine Marie money instead of a gift so you can get her something she needs.

Love, Elsa

<b>1951-11-25</b> (25 November 1951)	Post date: 1951-11-26	Postmark: St Charles, Ill.
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: Mr & Mrs Clarence Swanson	
From: 301 Dodson St Geneva, Illinois	To: 218 Hillview Ave Redwood City, California	
Pages: 1	Family news	

Nov. 25, 1951

Geneva, Illinois

Dear Clarence & Ruth,

Just a note in a hurry to let you know that Carl & Elsa have a little girl.

Born - Nov. 24 - 10:15 A.M.

Weight - 6 lbs. - 7 oz.

Name - Carla Joan

Everything is fine and they are very happy about it.

Dad is a little better but still poorly. Bob and I are staying over here while Elsa is gone.

More later.

Love, Lorraine

<b>1952-09-30</b> (30 September 1952)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Virginia Swanson	To: Ruth Swanson	
From: Arvin, California	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 2	Family news	

Sept 30, 1952

Dear Ruth,

I am so sorry that things turned out the way they did, and that your Dad never got home from his vacation, but no doubt that was the way it was meant to be.

He had a wonderful time. Especially enjoyed Grand Canyon. He said it was just wonderful. He had also been to Las Vegas, and seen the attractions there, and Boulder Dam. He enjoyed San Diego and Los Angeles too. Got lost in L A and couldn't find his hotel. The different police and shopkeepers directed him wrong, so he had quite a time and a long walk before he finally found it.

He got into Bakersfield Wednesday about noon, and called Thayers. They weren't home so he kept calling until four thirty, when he called here, and came out on the bus. Got here about 5:30. I hope he had a good time here - he seemed to. Thursday he spent mostly with my folks. Had lunch there and visited with them. Friday morning Harry went into town (Bakersfield) so he rode along. Sat. morning I had to go to Bak. so he rode with me. When I got ready to go I couldn't find him, so had to hunt him down. He was walking and had been exploring the town. We talked about going to the county Fair, but Harry said it might be too hard on him so we didn't take him there. Sunday he went to church with Harry, and afterwards we went to a restaurant in Bakersfield and had dinner. He seemed to enjoy that. Then we went up to Tehachapi to show him the earthquake damage, and that interested him very much.

We had invited friends for supper, and my folks came too, so we had a nice little party. He had a good time talking and telling about his travels. My, he had been a lot of places. He was interested in the Penticostal Church across the corner from us, so he went over there for a little while.

Monday morning he got up early, as he was getting anxious to get home. We went over to my Dad's and they picked a box of grapes for him to take. He just loved those grapes and wanted you to have some and also the neighbor. Then my dad and I took him into town. He checked his bag at the depot, and then we took him to Thayers. When we told him goodbye we invited him back. He said "I'll come if my health stays good".

Mr and Mrs Thayer took him to the station, and while Mr. T sat in the depot (he is so frail) Margaret walked with him to his car. He was just one car from where he would get on when he said "oh" and fell. She called for help, and in two or three minutes had a doctor and a nurse there, but there was nothing they could do. They had oxygen for him too, but it was no use. In about 10 minutes he was gone without regaining consciousness.

They called us right away and I got Harry and we went right in, but there was nothing we could do. We checked to see that his valuables were safe and found from the coroner what had to be done, and Harry called Clarence.

I know that it was a terrible shock to you, Ruth. But as long as he had to go, I think that it was nice that it happened as it did. If he had been at Grand Canyon or some other place where he wasn't known it would have been worse, Or if it had happened in front of the children. He didn't suffer at all, she said.

And he was having such a good time. Several times when he was here he mentioned how good he felt. That he hadn't felt so good for a long time. He was so interested in everything that went on. He went with my brother to work one day, and with Harry. He wanted to know about the mountains and the oil wells, and everything around here..

On the day before he died he talked about your mother a little and about your brother. And he talked constantly about you and Clarence and the children.

And we talked about religion too. There is no doubt in my mind that he is in Heaven with our Saviour, for he definitely believed that the only way to heaven was through Jesus, and he really believed in Him.

Of course we argued good naturedly about the merits of San Francisco and Arvin, and we really got a kick out of him for he was a real San Francisco booster.

We want very much to be with you on Friday. You don't have much family left, and we feel that we should be with you. But Harry is very busy, and we don't know if we can make it or not. But we will come if we can.

We also want to give a little towards your Memorial Fund, and my folks too, but will have to take care of that in a few days.

Please extend to Clarence our very deepest sympathy.

Love, Virginia

DJC notes: Typed, includes a short newspaper cutting that reports the death.

<b>1952-09-29</b> (29 September 1952)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Elsa Swanson	To: Ruth & Clarence	
From: Geneva, Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 4	Family news	

Sept 29, 1952

Dear Ruth & Clarence,

We are very sorry to learn of your loss and we know he will be greatly missed by each one of you and by his many friends. It is always hard to lose a loved one even though we know that death is a natural thing but then isn't it comforting to know that our heavenly home is a much happier place where there is no sorrow or sighing?

I always marvelled at how Mr. Kjlback could do so much travelling and take such an active interest in everything in spite of his heart condition. He seemed to enjoy life and people to the utmost. Another thing which I admired him for was his generosity. He seemed to enjoy giving gifts to all his friends. I never forget when he stopped here on the way home from Norway he bought gifts for all those Norway because he wanted them to have something from America. He was especially interested in making good buys [?] in material.

I phoned Klemms this morning. Mrs Klemm answered and she was shocked to learn the news. They are all well and I'm sure you will be hearing from them soon. I also called Lorraine this morning.

Bob, together with his father and brother have have gone into International Harvester Farm Implement business for themselves in Aurora. I suppose Lorraine either has or will write to you about it for they just took it over entirely yesterday. Since this has been Bob's line of work he knows a great deal about it but even so it will take time to get organized & adjusted. We hope his health keeps up. Bob should make good for he has the ambition, intelligence and personality necessary in business.

This last Sunday we all (including grandpa) rode out to Jesse & Mary Baker's home. This is the first time we have seen their new home and it truly is a lovely place. Mary was telling of all the work they had to put in to improve the surroundings on the farm. Their son Don intends to get married the 23rd of November. His father needs him & he wants to stay on the farm, so they are considering having a trailer home on their premises. The Bakers were so pleased that you visited them, Clarence, when you were here.

The Sunday before last the Carlsons & us drove up to Arts and they weren't home. We got there before 3 p.m. which is the time they close the station. We found out later that they had gone to Wennerstroms. Art has a man working full time for him now because he is so busy. Grandpa was with us that Sunday too. Lately he's been going with us wherever we go so he must be feeling better.

A couple weeks ago he walked over to his friends Mr. & Mrs. Linds, who live about 1/2 mile away from us. They were glad to see him, cooked coffee for him, and Mr. Linds drove him home. Two days after we learned that Mr. Linds had died of an heart attack. He had

been removing dried branches from some fruit trees that day. He was 77 years old. Grandpa attended his funeral with our neighbors.

We've had a cool spell but now it's hot again. It was 90 degrees Sunday which was a record for that day.

We have been contemplating on selling our house and buying a small farm which Carl could work on the side because its not easy to make the paychecks reach the way everything costs nowadays & it will be worse when the children start school. Its hard to get a good price for the house for real estate is at a standstill around here now.

We would like to know more of the details about your father, Ruth. Grandpa asks if he was at home or in a hospital. I know you won't feel like writing much yet so we'll just wait until you're able to do so.

I must have been sleeping very soundly when the phone rang. I couldn't figure it out - I thought it was an alarm clock at first. I didn't even turn on the light so I had no idea what time it was. I guess I must have sounded kind of dopey.

Our thoughts and our prayers are with you and we hope you all are well.

Love, Elsa

<b>1952-10-01</b> (1 October 1952)	Post date: 1952-10-04	Postmark: Geneva, Ill.
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: Mr & Mrs Clarence Swanson	
From: 519 Anderson Blvd. Geneva, Illinois	To: 218 Hillview Avenue Redwood City, California	
Pages: 2	Family news	

October 1, 1952,

Geneva, Illinois

Dear Clarence & Ruth,

Ruth - my dear - we were very sorry to hear the news of your Father's death. It was indeed a shock, as we had no idea he was ill - was it sudden? There is so little anyone can do, but our prayers are with you, and know that our Good Lord will give you the strengthen necessary to carry on. I am sure he will be missed by all of you. You on the other hand have the satisfaction of knowing that you had provided him with a home and that you had done your best for him.

I haven't written for a long time, and it seems so many things have happened the last few months. We, of course, all miss Richard, but again know that the Lord had a purpose in taking him. Clarence, having seen him so recently, knew that he wasn't a healthy child.

Bob quit his job with the Company and together with his Dad and Brother have taken over the International Harvester dealership in Aurora. The transfer was effective this week. It is a big step for him, and of course meant a large debt, but it is a dream of his come true, and we hope and pray that it will work out. We are planning to move to Aurora as soon as we can find a place. We heard in July that we had to move from here anyhow, but still haven't found anything. The fellow who owns this place got married, so he wants the apartment. Hope something turns up soon.

As the Lord takes away, he also gives, and so we are looking forward to a new member in the family around the middle of November if it is God's will.

David is growing each day it seems. He talks quite a lot. Some of it in his own special language, but he does say lots of words.

Dad is about the same. Some good days and some bad.

David is sleeping and Bob has gone to Board Meeting at church, so I guess I will say Good Night for now, and go to bed too.

Let us hear from you, when you feel like writing.

Love, Lorraine

1954-03-20 (20 March 1954)	Post date: 1954-03-31	Postmark: Geneva, Ill.
From: Elsa Swanson	To: Mr & Mrs Clarence Swanson	
From: 301 Dodson St. Geneva, Ill	To: 218 Hillview Avenue Redwood City, California	
Pages: 2	Family news	

Dear Clarence & Ruth,

These past days have been very busy ones and I know you folks must be waiting to hear from us. Lorraine says she intends to write to California too so perhaps some of this letter will be repetition.

We are most sorry to learn about your employment difficulties and hope they are easing up. Have you had any compensation help? It must be very tough to lose a job even for a short time during these times. We hope to be able to help you out at least to pay back what you so graciously sent to help grandpa.

It seems that a person can just live for a day at a time and try not to worry about the future. God always provides somehow. The expenses were getting quite heavy for us and we were wondering what we would do after we used up the children's money but everything worked out well since Carl got some money which he had lent out years ago and then he got a little overtime in on account of the snow so we didn't have to get in debt. "The Lord is good and his mercy endureth forever."

We feel too that grandpa was prepared to go for he said so and he wasn't afraid of death. He felt weak and tired and was in kind of a stupor the last few days. He heard Carl ask him how he was the night before for he said "bad". About 7:30 Wed. morning he had just slept away without any choking or strangling which we were afraid might happen.

Our minister had visited him quite a few times and said he had joined with him in prayer. It made him glad to have the young people of the church come to sing & read to him. He shook hands with each one to show his gratitude.

We had just perfect weather Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Before there was much rain, thunder & lightning and a terrific wind. Yesterday we had a heavy snowfall. So there's another instance where we can see the Hand of God.

We had him at Bob Larson's Funeral Home. Bob is a young fellow at church and is our choir director. He had fixed him up very natural and looked like he was sleeping. Carla & Danny saw him too. Carla said "I'm going to wake grandpa up."

Two vocal selections were sung by Glenn Anderson while his wife played. He sang "Take My Hand, Precious Lord" and "Nearer Still Nearer". Andersons are friends of ours and they refused to take any money for their services. Many people gave money instead of flowers and we used that money for memorial gifts to the Camp Augustana Chapel Fund (\$75) and the "Advance for Christ" mission ingathering. I believe there will be about 50 dollars for that and we know that it is a very worthy cause.

It was so wonderful to see friends waiting at the cemetery for us. There was Grandma Lowery, Esther Davidson, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Lowery, Beverly, Mr. & Mrs. Warren Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Baker, Mr. & Mrs. Hugo West, Irwin West, Mr. & Mrs. Finch, Zora Hautigan, Rob Rosenthal, Mr & Mrs Wennerstrom were at the funeral and Reinhold Johnson, Warren Johnsons and Bakers came to the house Friday afternoon and were here for supper. John Westman's came with Arts and we were a house full at home after we came back from the cemetery. My mother, neighbors & friends had fixed a buffet supper for everyone. Besides money & flowers there was many donations of food. It sure made us appreciate the kindness of people.

Grandpa was well liked around here for when he was well he often walked around and visited with many. He certainly had a long seige of of illness but we know that the Lord has a will and purpose for everything even though we do not always understand it. Grandpa never complained about his condition and remained cheerful most of the time.

I could go on and write a lot more but I'm afraid it would tire you out reading it so will close now with much love from all of us and hope to hear from you soon. (Greeting to Evelyn, Betty & Elaine).

Elsa, Carl & family

DJC notes: This letter includes a newspaper obituary notice for E.J. Carlson: St. Charles - Ernest J. Swanson, 75, passed away yesterday at the Stately Manor Rest Home in Geneva. He was born Jan. 5, 1879 in Sweden and came to Chicago in 1903. He engaged in farming until he retired in 1946. He was a member of the Brotherhood of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church. He was preceded in death by his wife, Anna, in 1942. Surviving are four sons, Carl of Geneva; Arthur of Honey Creek, Wis.; Clarence of Redwood City, Calif.; and Harry of Arvin, Calif.; and one daughter, Mrs. Lorraine Carlson of Aurora; two brothers and two sisters still living in Sweden; and 14 grandchildren. Services will be held Saturday, March 27, at 1 p.m. at the Larson Funeral Chapel, with the Rev. David Ekstrom officiating. Burial will be at Mount Hope Cemetery in Seneca. Friends may call at the chapel all day Friday.

<b>1954-03-29</b> (29 March 1954)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: Clarence & Ruth	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 3	Family news	

March 29, 1954

Dear Clarence & Ruth,

I just finished feeding Paul and David & Ann are still napping so will try to get a few lines written while all is quiet.

It doesn't seem possible that Dad is gone. We were so used to having him over at the rest home that it is hard for me to believe that he isn't there any more. He left this world peacefully. He had been going down hill for about 2 or 3 weeks and each time I saw him I thought he was weaker and more confused than before. I was up to see him on Sunday night, but he didn't know I was there. The doctor said he was in a stupor, a semi-conscious state. He stayed in that more or less until he died on Wednesday morning. The last few times I saw him he seemed to want to go. He said he wasn't afraid. He had told God that he hoped he would take him just as he was.

It was hard to see him lay there, especially the last couple of weeks. He looked so bad, but I wish you could have seen him in his coffin. He looked beautiful. Very natural and just how he looked 10 years ago when he was all dressed up.



It was a small funeral, but very nice. There was about 10 floral pieces, just enough. Glenn Anderson sang "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" and "Nearer Still Nearer". Rev. Ekstrom gave a good message, and I felt it was just the way he would have wanted it. Very simple but nice.

Warren & Mabel and Jesse & Mary came up Friday afternoon instead of for the funeral, and then they met us at the cemetery on Saturday. There were several others who came for the services at the cemetery. Mr & Mrs West & Irwin & Zara, Mr & Mrs George Finch, Joe & Londres Curran, Mrs Lowery, Ester, Blanche, Richard & Beverly, Robb Rosendahl and I can't remember if there was anyone else.

The only ones that went down from up here were the pallbearers, the undertaker & Rev. Ekstrom, and then two cars of us. Carl & Elsa, Art & Lovina and their 3 children, John & Sigried Westman, and Bob & I.

Roy & Carina Wennerstrom were up for the funeral, but they didn't come for the cemetery. Rheinhold Johnson, Clara's husband, was out for the funeral too.

Elsa's step-mother and some of the neighbors had supper ready for us when we got back.

So there is a brief resume of the funeral. I know you were thinking about it, even though you couldn't be here physically.

Now, as I told Carl, he can feel that his responsibility is over, and believe me he has been wonderful, both when Mother was sick and again now. He has gone over to see him at least every other day all these months, and anything he could do for him he did.

We were sorry to hear that you haven't been working, Clarence. Know how hard it must be. We have a hard time making ends meet even with Bob working. Sure hope something good turns up soon.

You asked me if I wanted some overalls Ruth. Ann could possible use them next winter if you want to send them otherwise give them to some one out there. Please don't buy anything for Paul, because he doesn't need anything. We have lots of things left from David and they just grow out of them. Paul has been so good these first six weeks for which we are sure thankful.

I can hear Ann is awake, so I had better get her up. We have been gone so much the past few days that David & Ann both got tired out, so they took longer naps than usual today.

Goodbye now and write when you have time.

Love, Lorraine

1955-04-18 (18 April 1955)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: Clarence & Ruth	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 4	Family news	

April 18, 1955

Dear Clarence & Ruth,

Thank you for your letter we received last week. We had wondered if you had gotten the check, but Elsa looked up the cancelled check, so we knew it had arrived.



The children are fine. David & Ann are outside now. Paul is walking good now so he gets around pretty fast.

It is unusually warm here, and looks like it may rain anytime. Everything is early. Grass is so green, tulips are out and the other flowers are all coming. April is early to have flowers. Hope they don't freeze.

We were invited to Art & Lovina's on Palm Sunday for Vincent's Confirmation. I wasn't feeling good so we didn't go, but Carl & Elsa did. Had a real nice time. Had dinner & supper for lots of relatives & friends. Believed they served in a hall, as their house wouldn't be big enough.

We haven't seen them since Christmas Eve. Will try to make it up there some Sunday this summer.

Bob keeps real busy, besides his job he does quite a bit of refrigeration work extra. Sometimes it requires evening work or Saturday afternoons. The extra money is very useful, but we like to have him at home too, so are glad when he can come home and stay.

Carl & Elsa are happy in their new home. It is real nice, and should be less work than the other one.

Ruth, the P.S. in your letter puzzled me "Won't you & Carl get \$10,000 plus interest from your brother's insurance before it runs out?"

I thought I had explained it fully in my last letter, but apparently it wasn't clear enough so will try to do it better. Elmer's insurance policy was for \$10,000 - no interest. Dad had drawn on that amount from Feb - 1945 to March - 1954. I don't have all the figures in front of me, but he had gotten a total of between \$8,000 and \$8,5000. I don't know exactly. The balance of the \$10,000 was to come to me, as I was the next beneficiary. It took several months to get the papers through, and I believe the first check came in October or November - it was retro-active to April. Out of the check we paid the funeral bill, which was somewhere around \$500, and we paid you and Art. Bob & I could contribute very little at the time, so Carl carried our part of the burden. Carl has been getting the monthly checks since, and now they will start going to Harry. He had big expenses when Dad was in the hospital in Bakersfield and then bringing him home, in addition to his monthly contributions. So he will get the balance of the checks. There wasn't quite enough to pay each one back 100%, so that is why we deducted the \$25.00 from each one, to cover the cost of the marker. The new stone is in now, and Carl was up yesterday and planted one more tree, so that part is finished.

No, Carl & I are not getting \$10,000 plus interest - wish we were. However, there will not be 10¢ over and above expenses. But just think how fortunate we are that the bills are all paid. Dad had good care until the end. If Elmer had gotten married we would have had all the expenses, but no money coming in, so let us be thankful it worked out as it did. If this still isn't clear to you, let me hear from you, and I will try again.

Now it is almost supper time so had better stop for this time.

Write when you have time

Love, Lorraine

1957-09-26 (26 September 1957)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: Clarence & Ruth	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 4	Family news	

Sept. 26, 1957

Dear Clarence & Ruth,

I had hoped to get a few lines off to you right after the funeral, but each day goes and I don't get everything done. I am four months pregnant so maybe that makes me a little slower than usual - at least I can use that for an excuse.

As you heard Karen died on Monday - Sept 16. Lovina said it was a little over 3 years since that first noticed that she wasn't well. Since then it has been a series of doctors and hospitals at different times and they just couldn't find any help. This time she was sick for about 3 weeks. Art thought it started with the flu, and one thing led to another until finally they took her to the hospital on Sept 8. - She had a rough week, part of the time she knew them and then again she wouldn't - Lovina was with her most of the time. Some strange element in her system ate up the calcium in her bones. Her legs were so thin and crooked, so no doubt it is a blessing she could go, but I feel terribly sorry for them especially since it is the second one.

Elsa, Bob, & I went to the funeral. It was a nice church. She looked very nice, better than she has for a long time. They had a pink casket, and probably 6 or 8 floral sprays. A man sang "The Holy City" and the "Lord's Prayer". And the pastor based his meditation on the book of Samuel when King David's child died - how the king reacted both during her sickness and after her death. It was a very fine meditation. The nicest I have ever heard at a funeral. Quite a few people were there the church must have been at least 2/3 full. Blanche Lowery, Gordon's wife & Beverly & her husband were there. Mrs. Ivan West, Mrs Newport, and Hugo West. Mr Hedgland from Ransom, their insurance man, Lovina's Mother & Dad, 2 aunts & an uncle from Streator, and then the Westmans, John & Sigrid, and the two daughters of Florence and Linnea. Other than that I guess it was all neighbors & friends.

She was buried at Lake Geneva beside Richard, and we went to the same friends home for coffee again as we had when Richard died.

The same day as Karen's funeral, Mrs Baker, Mrs Warren Johnson's mother, was buried. She didn't live long after Mabel died. I believe I heard she was 86.

Mrs Jesse Baker sent me a newspaper clipping that Mrs Erlandson had died. Wished I had known it sooner, as I would have made a real effort to get down to see them. I have written to Anna Mae, but haven't heard yet. Her mother died in Georgia with Ethel - where she has been for some time now.

Well, so much for funerals, etc.)

How is everyone at your house? I had a letter from Virginia yesterday, and she said you had been down.

We are all pretty well. Busy most of the time it seems. David & Ann are both in school and seem real happy. They have a mile to walk, so David only has 10 minutes at home for lunch. I have everything on his plate and he gobbles. It's a good thing he is a good eater. I don't know how he is going to manage when the weather gets bad and he has to wear boots, etc.

Bob drives an I.H Station Wagon now instead of a truck. Perhaps you have seen them. They aren't low & streamlined like the Fords & Chevys. It is rather high, and we call it the bus, but the kids love it. Bob takes David, Ann & Paul and goes to Sunday School in the S.W. and then Mary and I come in the car for church. But when church is over, Mary deserts Mommy - she has to ride in the S.W. He usually ends up with our four, and our friends three children, so anyone who sees him probably thinks he really has a big family.

Elsa is doing fine. She worked during May & June, then was home during the summer, but now has started back again. She works at the Court House where she did before she was married. Yesterday would have been their 9th Wedding Anniversary. She manages very well and is sure a good mother to those kids. I still miss Carl a lot, and think of him often.

Well I guess I better say good night. I usually get to bed pretty early, and I am sure it must be past my bedtime. Bob is working in the basement - mending toys, no matter how they may be broken the kids always figure Daddy can fix it.

Write when you have time.

Love, Lorraine

DJC notes: When Lorraine writes "our friends three children" who ride in the IH station wagon, she refers to the Nelsons?

<b>1957-10-21</b> (21 October 1957)	Post date: 1957-10-22	Postmark: Geneva, Ill.
From: Elsa Swanson	To: Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Swanson	
From: 523 So. 12th Ave St. Charles, Illinois	To: 218 Hillview Avenue Redwood City, California	
Pages: 3	Family news	

Dear Clarence and Ruth,

Not a day goes by that I don't have you folks on my mind. You must think I'm awful for not having written to you before this. It is difficult for me to find time to do any letter writing now that I work every day. We don't even have Saturdays off and I must confess I have a hard time knowing just what to say. I don't think I've written to my brother's family this year and there's many others I've neglected.

Today I had to stay home because Danny isn't feeling at all well. He has a slight fever, cough & no appetite. We hope it isn't that Asiatic flu. Lorraine says Bob has it. Now that I'm home I thought I would get at my big pile of ironing and some other things, but now this afternoon I'm feeling sick to my stomach but then I think how very small our troubles are to yours.

Virginia wrote and said they were coming to your place this last week end. It's a shame that we all have to be so far apart for it's always helps to have some relatives close by when there's sickness. I sure appreciate having my folks and my brothers near. A few weeks ago my dad had a prostate gland operation and is just going back to work today for the first time. He feels quite well but still is a bit weak. I think it's bothering him to have his work pile up at the office.

Danny and Carla seem to be doing well in school and I'm sure glad they like school. Since Carla will be six before the 1st of December she gets to be in first grade this year and Danny is in second. Carla wasn't actually due until the middle of December but the doctor decided it was best to do the Caesarian the latter part of November. She is so much more active and peppy than Danny but she just can't get rid of that thumb sucking habit.

When we were on the way to Karen Louise's funeral Lorraine made the remark that the Swansons are decreasing but the Carlsons are increasing. She wasn't really happy to know that they were going to have their 5th child for it is such a struggle to keep up now. She seems to have gotten over her sick feeling now.

Karen sure was a very sick child. They first noticed her not being well about a year after Richard passed away. She had a very nice service and looked beautiful. Their pastor gave a wonderful sermon.

Carla should be coming home any time now so I'd better bring this letter to a close.

We do wonder much just how you all are getting along during these troublesome times. How is the rest of the family? It must be hard with the financial end. Are your neighbors and friends helpful? Would like to know just how we could help.

There's one scripture passage that comes to my mind especially and that is "Call upon me in the day of trouble and I will deliver the and thou shalt glorify me."

Virginia said she would write again soon.

In the meantime we will remember you in our prayers. Just remember that "God is our refuge and strength" and may your faith increase.

Love, Elsa

<b>1957-11-18</b> (18 November 1957)	Post date: 1957-11-19	Postmark: Aurora, Ill.
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Swanson	
From: 319 Watson St. Aurora, Illinois	To: 218 Hillview Avenue Redwood City, California	
Pages: 2	Family news	

Nov. 18, 1957

Dear Ruth & Clarence,

Was so glad to hear that you had come home Ruth, and that you were able to have some one stay with you. Am sure that your family is rejoicing to have you home again.

I have been slow about writing but for the past three weeks we have been sick. Don't know whether it is the flu, or bad colds, but I am so sick of temperatures, coughs, running noses, etc. that I hardly know what to do. I was feeling better, but now it feels like it is coming back again. You can't get rid of the stuff. Bob has had it the hardest, has been home quite a bit. Has had a deep cough and a sore throat. Even medicine doesn't clear it up. The children are all better right now.

Today our little one is 2 yrs old, and so it is one year today since Carl left us. My the year has gone fast. We had Mary's birthday cake last night. We have more time on Sunday, as it is usually pretty late when Bob gets home from work.

Talked to Elsa Saturday. Haven't seen her for a while - don't want her to come when we haven't been feeling good. She has her hands full without sickness. She manages very well.

Was planning to get together with Arts for Thanksgiving, probably the Sunday before or after, but now will have to wait and see if everybody feels alright.

It is a nasty rainy day here, and they are predicting snow flurries for tonight, so I guess winter is getting close.

Now I will say goodbye for this time, and see what we are going to have for supper.

Write when you feel like it. We think of you often and hope and pray that things will work out somehow for you.

Love, Lorraine

DJC notes: Carl died 18 November 1956?

<b>1958-01-15</b> (15 January 1958, estimate)	Post date: 1958-01-16	Postmark: Arvin, Calif.
From: Virginia Swanson	To: Ruth	
From: Arvin, California	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 2	Family news	

Dear Ruth,

We were so pleased to get your Christmas letter because it sounded like you were getting better. Hope you continue to improve and are soon back to normal. Please let us know how you are doing, as we are anxious to hear.

We are all very busy as usual. Harry has been doing a lot of small additions and remodeling jobs. He doesn't enjoy that type of work too much, but it is part of his business, so he has to do it. Next week he plans to start another house to sell. He sold the last one so quickly, and there seems to be a demand for them so he's going to try another one.

It was so nice to have the children home during Christmas vacation, but the days have been very peaceful and quiet since they are back in school. The boys did quite a bit of yard work during the vacation, and we painted Barbara's bedroom. I would like to do more painting, but doubt if I can get anyone to help me.

Harry had a letter from Warren Johnson. He said they may come to California in February. We hope so. He is such a friendly man.

We had planned to go back to Redwood City to see if we could be of any help, but so far haven't made it. There are so many things here that have to be done that we don't get far from home. No doubt there are things that I could do for you. It is too bad that we live so far apart.

My Uncle Jake has been very sick, but now is beginning to improve. He has been in the hospital over three weeks. After his surgery the family was called in twice because they thought he was dying, but each time he came out of it. Just this week he was taken off the critical list, so we hope he is going to be all right. Our next door neighbor has been quite sick too, but he is better.

We have been having strange weather - a few days of beautiful sunshine then a few days of fog. This is one of the foggy days and it makes everyone feel gloomy. We could surely use some rain, but don't seem to get any.

Love, Virginia.

DJC notes: Written on illustrated stationary, referencing Collioure, France.

<b>1958-02-23</b> (23 February 1958)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Swanson	
From: Aurora, Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: Card, written in pencil	Family news	

Feb 23, 1958

Hello,

Just wanted to let you know of the new arrival

Name - Barbara Joan

Weight - 9#

Born - Feb 22 - 3:40 A.M.

I was sure surprised it was a girl, as I had expected another Feb. boy. Of course, it doesn't make a bit of difference.

Excuse the pencil. I forgot to bring a pen. Bob was just here, but he didn't have one either.

How is everything going for you people? I think of you so often. Hope & pray that you are feeling better, Ruth.

If you don't hear from me for a long time, you'll know it is because I am busy with my five little ones.

Goodbye now.

Love, Lorraine

<b>1959-??-??</b> (no date, estimate 1959)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Virginia Swanson	To: Ruth	
From: Arvin, California	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 1	Family news	

Dear Ruth,

I was so sorry to hear that you had to have more surgery, but since they got it so early you'll be over it before too long.

We planned to spend this last weekend with you folks, but it didn't work out that way. Barbara got the flu a week ago Friday and missed school until the following Friday. Monday night mom got an attack of high blood pressure and has been in bed since. Friday Wayne got the flu and yesterday Harry got it. So far Ken and I are O.K. So we just couldn't make it to Redwood City. If we can we will try to make it next week end. We're family, not company, so don't worry about our coming.

I know you face a long convalescence, and I wish we lived nearer so that I could be of some help. You are fortunate that Evelyn & Betty are old enough to be a real help.

I hope you get to come home this week Hospitals are no fun to be in.

Love, Virginia

<b>1960-12-17</b> (17 December 1960)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: Clarence & Ruth	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 2	Family news	

Dec. 17, 1960

Dear Clarence & Ruth

Happy Anniversary.

My how the years fly by. Getting old, aren't we?

I remember that day so well. I still have the dress I wore. Am saving it for Ann to play dress up in - It will soon fit her, as she is almost as big as her mother.

Hope you are feeling well, and can have a happy anniversary.

Love, Lorraine

<b>1963-12-??</b> (December 1963?)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Virginia Swanson	To: "all" (Clarence & Ruth)	
From: Bakersfield	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 1 (typed)	Family news	

Hi,

Merry Christmas to you all.

I have been intending to write to let you know that Wayne is in the army and Kenny is out, and this is the first opportunity I have had. (I've been busy)

Wayne went in on November 14. He is taking basic training at Fort Ord, and will probably be there until about the first of February. He doesn't like it, but has decided to make the best of it, and enjoy it as much as he can. Hopes to go to Europe.

Kenny and Darla got home last Saturday, and we were so glad to see them. They had quite a trip home, as their car is old, and they kept having trouble. When they got to Needles they almost called us to come and get them in Barstow, or be ready to tow them home, but they kept coming, and made it fine.

Ken took the car to our mechanic, and found the main trouble was that so many had worked on it, all putting in different kinds of parts. Also a lot of things had loosened up on the trip. In half a day he had it working fine.

They spent the week end after Thanksgiving in Aurora - got out the evening of the 27, and got to Illinois on Friday and stayed til Monday. Arts and Elsa and Carla came on Sunday - Danny was sick - so Darla got to meet most of the family.

They went to church with Lorraine, saw a lot of scenery and part of Chicago, and started home Monday morning. They drove through Morris, Mazon and Dwight; Ken remembered, and wanted to show Darla. They spent part of the week with Darla's relatives in Oklahoma, and got here last Sunday. And WERE WE GLAD TO SEE THEM!



Kenny will be going back to the bank right after the first of January. He wanted a little time to get settled. They will be living in Delano for about 6 months, as he will be at the Delano branch.

Wayne will get home next Thursday for a Christmas vacation, and we are looking forward to that.

We are all busy as usual. There has been a lot of sickness in the high school, but so far Barb hasn't gotten it. She has done real well this year, only missed a few days.

We had our big family Christmas party last Tuesday, and it was Barb's and your birthday, Ruth. So I had a birthday cake for her, and everyone brought her gifts. Mostly bracelets, and a red petticoat, which she dearly loves.

We aren't real sure just what we will do for Christmas. It depends on Ken & Darla.

Hope you have a happy holiday season.

Love, Virginia

DJC notes: Christmas letter, no year, but refers to Kenny & Darla's visit to Illinois.

<b>1963-12-??</b> (December 1963?)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: Clarence, Ruth & girls	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 2	Family news	

Dear Clarence & Ruth & girls,

Hope this finds all of you well and happy.

We are very fine. The Lord has certainly blessed us with a good year.

We certainly enjoyed having you visit us this past summer. Thank you for coming.

Last week end Kenny & Darla were with us. They came Friday afternoon and left Monday morning. It was so very nice to see them and to meet Darla.

On Sunday Arts were down and Elsa was here so she could meet the whole family.

They were certainly thankful to be out of service and on their way home to California.

On October 20 we were up to Arts for Helen Eileen's confirmation.

If things go as planned Arts and Elsa will be here on Dec 22 for Christmas. On Christmas Day I will have Bobs folks and his Aunt and Uncle and then on the 29th all of his family will be together. Of course all of this depends on the weather, sickness, etc. But we hope it goes as we plan. Our church program is Dec. 22 at 7:30 P.M.

The next two weeks will be busy with all the activities.

Let us hear from you and we hope you have a Blessed Holiday Season.

Lorraine

DJC notes: Check with Barbara Swanson to confirm dates?



<b>1964-12-??</b> (December 1964)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: "Everybody" (Clarence & Ruth)	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 3	Family news	

December, 1964

Hello Everybody,

Hope this finds all of you happy and busy.

We are fine and the Lord has blessed us with another good year.

The children are growing up so very fast. They are each so very busy and it keeps us busy keeping up with them.

December 20 is our Choir program and Barbara and Mary are in the Children's Choir. Then on Dec. 27 we have our Church School program and here they are all involved in one way or another.

The children get out of school on the 22nd and go back January 4. Bob still has one weeks vacation coming, so he will be home between the holidays.

We expect to have Arts and Elsa here on Christmas Day, and Bob's family will probably be getting together on the 27th.

Bob enjoyed seeing all our California relatives during the past year. Thank you for what you did for him. He expects to be in Mobile, Alabama two or three weeks in January.

We have had some snow so far, but most of it is gone now. The weather is quite pleasant right now. I would like it to stay this way. I don't mind winter if the cars start and driving isn't too bad.

We aren't through Christmas shopping yet. Hope to finish in the next few days. We will probably put up our tree next week end. Bob made a real pretty decoration for our fireplace. Wish you could see it.

Hope you have a Blessed Holiday Season.

Lorraine

<b>1965-04-20</b> (20 April 1965?)	Post date:	Postmark:
Virginia Swanson	To: Clarence & Ruth	
From: Bakersfield	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 1 (typed)	Family news	

April 20 ?

Dear Clarence and Ruth,

Wayne and Mary were here for Easter and he took the lead home with him. It weighed 87 pounds, and he thought \$25.00 was a fair price for it.

We was in Boston for two weeks last month, and spent the weekend traveling with friends and stayed all night with David. They had a good visit, and he said it was the highlight of his trip.

Early next month he is going to Detroit for a week, and then to Buenos Aires for 2 weeks. He is looking forward to it as a young man from Argentina was in his office for 3 months last fall and they became good friends - Wayne even brought him to see us. So they will get together again.

We had a trailer rally at Coarsegold April 10-12, and then led a caravan of 10 trailers through the gold rush country from Sunday til Friday. We all had a wonderful time, but Harry and I were tired when it was over.

Yesterday Barbara hosted our Easter dinner - all the family and another couple - old friends. We had a real good time.

Hope you're feeling better, Clarence.

Love, Virginia

<b>1966-12-05</b> (5 December 1966)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: "Everybody" (Clarence & Ruth)	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 2	Family news	

December 5, 1966

Dear Folks,

I am trying to get some of my notes written early, so I am sure they get done.

How is everyone at your house? Busy, I imagine. It seems that we get busier each year. Our children are involved in so many activities sport, scouts, band, choir, confirmation, church, swimming and the list could go on.

I have been working since school started. I work in an office of a plastics toy company. I work from 9 to 3:30. So I am only gone when the children are. So far it has worked out fine, and I hope I can continue. I have been doing mostly typing.

Bob's mother was with us today for dinner. She is not very well but enjoys getting out. We were thankful we got her home safely tonight as it is hard for her to walk and the weather is bad here tonight. Freezing rain.

Bob has been working on a big show for the past six weeks, and he is finally finished. He is glad about that. He still has over two weeks vacation coming, and he expects to work that in before the end of the year.

We expect Arts & Elsa's to be here with us on Dec 26th. On the 25th the Carlson's will be together either here or at Bob's sister's in Elgin. I don't know for sure yet.

I'm going to say goodbye for this time. And I hope you have a Blessed Holiday Season.

Love, Lorraine

<b>1967-06-30</b> (30 June 1967)	Post date: 1976-07-01	Postmark: Albuquerque
From: Elsa Swanson	To: Mr & Mrs Clarence Swanson & girls	
From: New Mexico	To: 218 Hillview Ave Redwood City, California 94062	
Pages: Post card	Family news	

Hi!

Last Tuesday I flew into Albuquerque on a TWA jet to visit my brother & wife. I'm truly enjoying this "Land of Enchantment". They have a lovely home here. There's much to do & see. Expect to return home next Thursday. Carla and Dan are taking care of themselves at home. My folks will help them.

Elsa

<b>1967-12-08</b> (8 December 1967)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Elsa Swanson	To: Ruth & family	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California 94062	
Pages: 1	Family news	

12-8-67

Dear Ruth & Family,

Just a few line for there isn't much time to write much.

We've been wondering how Clarence is now? Hope he's well and the same goes for all of you.

Sounds like you & Evelyn had an interesting trip this summer. My trip to New Mexico was fun.

Dan works weekends at Hines Lumber Co. now. He has applied to enter Ill. Institute of Technology in Chicago. He became one of the Semi Finalists for Illinois State Scholarship. He's teaching Carla to drive our little red Volkswagen. She just became sweet 16 Nov. 24th.

My folks moved to Geneva. We're going to spend Christmas Eve with them & Christmas Day with Lorraine. Art, Lovina, Helen & children will be there also.

This will be all for now. Hope to hear from you.

God bless you all.

Love, Elsa

<b>1969-12-??</b> (December 1969)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Virginia Swanson	To: Ruth & family?	
From: California	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: Christmas card	Family news	

Hi,

How is everything with you folks? We are fine and busy.

We had our whole family - about 30 could come - at a family dinner Saturday night, and will have all our children home on Christmas Day. Barbara is coming home Monday - and we are really looking forward to that. She will be here a month.

Harry has been busy in his spare time helping Ken make a Santa and sleigh & 8 reindeer for the top of his house. It covers most of the roof and look beautiful.

Our David is growing fast and talks quite a bit. We enjoy him so much.  
 Have a happy Christmas,  
 Harry & Virginia

DJC notes: No obvious date, guessed at 1969.

<b>1971-12-??</b> (December 1971)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Elsa Swanson	To: Ruth & all	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: Christmas card	Family news	

Dear Ruth & all,

Virginia wrote that Evelyn intends to get married to a navy fellow - or has she taken the step yet? I understand he's a nice boy.

Carla got a ring from her Rick last month. She met him over a year ago at school. They hopefully will wait until he graduates in another year before they get married. She intends to graduate too. Will send you the announcement & her picture after it gets published.

Dan is still in Hawaii & won't be home for Christmas. His cousin Barbara has been nice to him & invites him over for dinner occasionally. Dan made his 3rd class air controller rating so he's doing ok on the job but he dislikes the navy atmosphere at the base. We're going to Arts on the 26th & Lorraines family will be here the 27th. This is about all I can think of for now.

Elsa Dan & Carla

DJC notes: No obvious date, guessed at 1971.

<b>1972-08-07</b> (7 August 1972)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: Clarence & Ruth	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 1 (typed)	Family news	

August 7, 1972

Dear Clarence & Ruth,

Will try to get a note off to you this morning. I tried to call you on your birthday Clarence, but there was no one home. Suppose you were out celebrating.

We keep wondering how you are feeling, and how things went for you after your operation. Why don't you sit down and write us a long letter and let us know how things are going.

Yesterday we had a shower at our house for Carla. It was a lovely party, we worked hard to make it special, and I think it was. She got some very nice things. She is a very special girl, Elsa has done a good job with those kids. The wedding is three weeks from

yesterday and they are expecting Dan to come home, so that is nice. He will be giving her away. We have met Rick many times, but yesterday was the first time I had met his mother. She was very attractive and very pleasant. They live here in Aurora, on the West side.

Summer is going much too fast. Within one month everyone will be back in school again. Dave leaves on August 20, spends one week in Northern Minnesota for cross country practice, and then gets back to school so he is there when the freshman come in on the 28th or 29th. Ann has to be back on September 4. Paul is going to a private college in Ashland, Wisconsin, and he reports there on September 2. School here in Aurora starts on the 5th too.

I expect to take last week in August off, and I hope Bob can arrange that too, as we will be taking Paul up. That will be at least a two day trip, and then get back in time to pack Ann up, and get her down. It will sure seem strange with three of them gone.

Art & Lovina were here the last Sunday in June when Helen and Jim were home, but we haven't seen or heard from them since. Lovina isn't very well. I did ask her to come to the shower, but she said no, they will try to make the wedding, but she didn't feel well enough for both.

Wasn't it interesting to hear about all our relatives in Sweden? I hope someday Bob and I can go, but I guess it won't be until all the kids get out of school, and by that time the aunts and uncles will probably all be gone.

Please let us hear from you.

Lorraine

DJC notes: Who conveyed news from Swedish relatives? Elsa? Virginia?

<b>1973-10-28</b> (28 October 1973)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: Ruth	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 3 (note card)	Family news	

Oct. 28, 1973

Dear Ruth -

It was nice to get your note the other day, but I certainly don't want the money. I never want to be paid for lending a hand. And there was no charge for the papers. And the phone calls certainly didn't cost very much, so I am returning your money. Besides that I get a chance to talk to you people for a few minutes, something that doesn't happen very often.

We had a card from Clarence when he was in Athens. It sounded like they were having a great time. It was wonderful that he could go.

I thought perhaps I would try to go in and see him during his lay-over at O'Hare. But Bob said that you can never depend on the air schedules, and they would probably be late. He travels so much that he knows about waiting and missing planes and all that stuff.

Tell him to write to us when he gets home. Hello to all.

Lorraine

DJC notes: Accompanied in notebook and during scanning by an undated Easter card from Lorraine Carlson

<b>1973-12-06</b> (6 December 1973)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Elsa Swanson	To: Ruth & family	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 2	Family news	

Thursday, Dec 6, 1973

Dear Ruth and family,

Sure appreciated you sending me the brochure of Clarence's tour. I meant to write to you long before this but spring & summer months are very busy times in the office and I rarely write to anyone during that time. It seems like there's always so many other things to take care of & lots of times I'm just plain tired & lack the "get up and go". Now during Dec, Jan & Feb our office work is very slow so I'm writing this during working hours. Now I see its time to leave for my lunch hour.

The lunch hour always seems too short. I went home and was happy to find a letter from Dan in the mailbox. I don't believe I told you his 4 years in the navy terminated July 27th. He was home for only a week the first part of August then left for Los Angeles to get into the work for the Church of Scientology. This organization I'm sure does help people with certain problems like psychiatrists & psychologists do but the only reason I can figure out why they call themselves a church & a religion may be to the benefits churches receive such as exemptions for the organization & for donors to claim their donations on income tax. Dan & I had quite a talk on this when he was home. It's supposed to be an interdenominational group & is supposed to strengthen ones own faith which I rather doubt. It was formed by L. Ron Hubbard in 1951. Dan seemed to be in good spirits & in good health when he was home & is very sensible about his diet & habits. He didn't hesitate attending our church when he was home but would not take communion.

He's now on the Flag Ship in Europe somewhere. He says he's in the transport unit of the ship & they transport people, mail & supplies to & from the ship and also to the airports & the cities they've been in. He thinks its fascinating to go to different countries & likes to deal with people & learn their languages & customs. He says he's due for warm weather for Christmas. Evidently they must not be allowed to mention what countries they contact. Dan keeps asking me to write but never acknowledges the mail or the packages I sent him a couple months ago or so. I sent them to the address he gives me which is c/o Flag, 5930 Franklin Av. Hollywood Ca 90028. His letters to me come postmarked New York & take only 5 days. For Christmas I sent him a personal check as a gift enclosed it & a letter in a Christmas card so now I'll wait to see if that check will have his endorsement on it.

Carla & Rick will come home Dec. 16th. Rick will have vacation then & will fix up the new Chevrolet van they purchased in which they intend to see the country & camp here & there for a year before they settle down to normal married life. Eventually they may buy a mobile home.

Lorraine calls me occasionally when she receives word from you or Virginia. Too bad Clarence had to miss out on the Holy Land areas where the war interfered with their plans.

My dad is now 83. His eyesight is quite poor so he has to give up reading & writing but he still can enjoy watching TV & listening to the radio. He eats well but moves around very slowly.

I keep struggling to keep up with expenses connected with home upkeep. Had to have a new roof new chimney & now new washing machine but I am thankful I have my home. I intend to write to Evelyn & Virginia next so until next Christmas God bless you all.

Love, Elsa

[Note in margin]: P.S. This greeting went to your city & was returned to me. I did a stupid thing - put 317 Orange St on it.

1974-06-12 (12 June 1974)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: Clarence & Ruth	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 2	Family news	

June 12, 1974

Dear Clarence & Ruth,

A few lines to let you know that we are alive and well.

I am writing this from Webb Lake, Wisconsin. We came up last Friday. It is the same place we have come for a hundred years, but it still seems to be a favorite spot. It is especially good for Bob. Away from the telephone and pressures of work and traveling. Barbara, Ann & Paul are with us. Mary had already started her summer job and couldn't get off. And Dave has gone back to be a water front director at Camp Augustana, where he has been for three summers.

Ann graduated from College on May 26. It was a grand & glorious day. Bob & I had gone down on Saturday afternoon to hear the Choir Concert and spend the evening with Ann. And then Dave and Mary & Barbara and Ann's boyfriend drove down early on Sunday morning. Baccalaureate is in the morning and Graduation at 3 in the afternoon. Art & Lovina surprised us and drove down. We didn't see them until after graduation, but they said they had gotten there, just as the graduates came marching in.

Ann is ready to teach, but so far hasn't found a job. Hope something turns up for her. She is going to work this summer the same place Mary is. It is a brush factory. They make toothbrushes, hairbrushes, combs and Maybelline products. Jobs aren't too plentiful, so they are lucky to have them. Paul is back at International Harvester where he has been for 3 summers.

We will leave here on Friday. Ann is in a wedding on Saturday. And she has to get home for the rehearsal. It is one of her high school friends.

Next Monday we all go back to work. I will take more vacation later, as Bob will too. but we don't have any plans. I suggested maybe we should wait until fall, and then maybe we could fly out to Maine and see Dave, as he expects to be in graduate school at the University of Maine, but we will just wait and see how things go. It will be a busy summer with everyone home. Probably be the last summer that they are all home.

Write when you have time.

Bye now. Lorraine



<b>1976-04-06</b> (6 April 1976)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Elsa Swanson	To: Ruth & family	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 3	Family news	

April 6, 1976

Dear Ruth & Family,

Ordinarily we would be very busy here in the County Treasurer's Office getting the tax bills ready for mailing but this year we anticipate quite a delay due to the quadrennial assessment when a lot of people will file complaints against their assessments and individual hearings must be held on each complaint. So now instead of mailing the bills in April they will probably be mailed in August. That's the way it is - we're either worked to death or have practically nothing to do.

I am writing this letter during working hours. I just finished writing to Virginia & Harry. The thing that I have feared for sometime came to pass and that is that my dad's days on earth has ended. Even though he has failed considerably it was always nice to have him alive and to visit with him. He died on Sunday afternoon March 14th just before one of his favorite T.V. Sunday Evening Club came on at 5:00 p.m. He never wanted to miss it. It was like a church service with a different minister & choirs each Sunday and lasts one hour. Sally, Gordy & I are usually there to visit every Sunday evening. Mildred said he started to complain about chest and arm pains but didn't think they were bad. He was sitting in his lounge chair in the living room. Mildred called the ambulance but he didn't make it. He was taken to the hospital. He had been up & around every day. His eyesight was very poor but he kept up with news & things by listening to the radio. He had a kind of Parkinson's disease which made his muscles stiff (not the shaking kind). His mind was good. He did not become senile & we're also thankful that he didn't need to be put in a nursing home and that he did not suffer. Mildred took good care of him. He always enjoyed eating her good cooking.

My brother Harold and his wife Lil drove here from No. Carolina for the funeral and also stayed until the following Saturday. The visitation was on Tuesday. There were so many many people who came. Close to \$600.00 was given to our church in memory of my dad, lots of flowers & food was given so we were very busy with all the acknowledgments, letters, & other business afterwards. The services were held in church Wednesday & again there were many people. Mildred's church unit served refreshments in the fireplace room. They had to use the other room too. I happened to have taken two weeks vacation from work at the time. In that we I could be of help to Mildred.

For my third weeks vacation I plan to ride with Gordy & Sally to Cary, No. Carolina. Mildred is going with. We plan to leave early on Good Friday & will arrive on Saturday. The following Monday Gordy & Sally will leave for Atlanta, Ga. to a convention but Mildred & I will stay there a week & return by plane on Sunday the 25th. It's been 8 or 9 years since I've gone anywhere for my vacation so I'm looking forward to going.

It was good that Danny had 3 weeks leave at Christmastime so that he could be with his grandpa. Danny really was very fond of him like all of us were.

I tried so hard to lose the 10 or 12 pounds I gained over the holidays and finally decided to join the Lynn Stevens Health Studio in Geneva. That was the week before Pop died. I was excused for a week but I'm still continuing to go there keeping down to 1,000



calories a day and staying away from salt, sugar & starchy foods. I have lost 10 1/4 pounds & tonight I think it will be less. Exercise and dieting help but its still a struggle.

Last Thursday Mildred & I were at Carla & Ricks for a delicious baked fish dinner. On the way home we stopped in to Lorraine & Bob's home. I wanted to see their furniture. It's lovely & goes so well with their new rusty sculptured shag carpeting. I'm sure glad that they are now able to spruce up their home. Barbara plans to fly to Maine the 26th of this month and visit her brother David. She's really thrilled about it.

Art & Lovina came to the funeral. They looked good.

Hope you folks feel well. Think of you a lot but I'm terribly slow about writing to anyone.

I did get some extra clippings of my dad's obituary from our week paper so I'm enclosing it with this letter.

If I get a chance I may send a card from No. Carolina.

Best regards to all of you. May you have a Blessed Easter.

Love, Elsa

DJC notes: Letter included a newspaper clipping (St Charles Chronicle, Wednesday 17 March 1976) on death of Gus Seastrom. Text as follows:

Gustaf V. Seastrom, 85, of Geneva and formerly of St. Charles died Sunday, March 14, in Community Hospital, Geneva. He was born June 21, 1890, in Blekinge, Sweden.

Mr. Seastrom was a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church of St. Charles, Neptune 35 I. O. Vikings and president of the past grand chiefs of the I.O.V. He was a member of the IOOF Lodge 14, which he served as treasurer since 1958. He was also a member of the Lincoln Lodge of Vasa Organization for several years and the John Erickson Republican Club for the past 50 year.

In 1929 he was elected treasurer of the City of St. Charles. He was then appointed to the office of city collector and served in this capacity until 1949. The next 16 years he served as city clerk, retiring from this office April 30, 1965, after serving the City of St. Charles for 36 years.

He is survived by his wife, Mildred; one daughter, Elsa Swanson of St. Charles, two sonss George Harold Seastrom of Cary, N.C., and Gordon Seastrom of Batavia; a stepdaughter, Elaine Lockhart of St. Charles; two sisters, Ellen Nordstrom and Astrid Hylander, both of Sweden; one brother, Hjalmar Seastrom of Sweden; seven grandchildren; four great grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

A service will be held at 2:30 p.m. today in the Bethlehem Lutheran Church of St. Charles with the Rev. Arthur Holmer officiating. Burial will be in Union Cemetary, St. Charles.

Visitation was held Tuesday in the Yurs Funeral Home, St. Charles. Contributions may be made to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, St. Charles.

<b>1977-02-04</b> (4 February 1977)	Post date: 1977-02-05	Postmark: Bakersfield, CA
From: Virginia Swanson	To: Mr & Mrs Clarence Swanson	
From: Bakersfield California	To: 218 Hillview Redwood City, California	
Pages: 1	Family news	

Feb 4

Hi

Just a note to let you know Harry is in the hospital recovering from prostate surgery performed on Tuesday. He is very sore and uncomfortable, and the doctor says he is doing well. He will probably get home early next week.

The rest of us are fine. Wayne and Mary are coming tomorrow.

We are all looking forward to Bob and Lorraine's visit. Harry should be feeling good by then.

Love, Virginia

<b>1977-11-01</b> (1 November 1977)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: Clarence & Ruth	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 1 (typed)	Family news	

November 1, 1977

Dear Clarence & Ruth:

This letter is long overdue, but I wanted to get the pictures made up, so I could send them along. You asked for a set for each of the girls, I believe, so that is why you are getting four sets. Also Clarence wanted this picture of Elmer, and I neglected to give it to him, so am enclosing that too.

Thank you for your visit with us. We enjoyed it very much, and I am grateful that each of you worked your schedule, so that we could all be together. Also thank you for the gift certificate that you sent us. That was not at all necessary, but we will put it to good use. Also thank you for being kind to Mary & Pam, they had a delightful time.

We are fine. We are expecting Mary home any day now. The last we heard they were in Little Rock, so their vacation will soon be over.

Art is doing much better. Feels better than he had in years. A week ago Sunday they celebrated Lovina's mother's 85th birthday in Streator. Bob and I drove down just to pay our respects, and we saw Art & Lovina and Helen & Chad there. Chad is such a little doll.

We had a letter from Virginia, they arrived home on October 21st. and had gone 9,100 miles. Quite a trip.

Take care all of you, and hello to all your girls for us. Let us hear from you when you have time, and thanks again.

Lorraine

<b>1977-12-10</b> (10 December 1977)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Elsa Swanson	To: Clarence & Ruth	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 1 (card)	Family news	

12-10-77

Hi!

Now I wish I were in California instead of here with all this snow, wind & frigid weather. I'll bet I've shovelled my driveway & walk about 20 times so far. Then to get the snow & ice of my car all the time too. It does make one rather weary.

Hope you folks made it home OK. from your vacation. I felt bad about not getting much time off from work at that time. I thoroughly enjoyed getting together with all the Swansons.

It sure will be nice after this month to have a lot of time to get things done around here & not have to drive to work in the bad winter weather although my little bug does quite well especially since I've found a good mechanic & had a good tune-up.

Hope you folks got home O.K. from your trip and that you are all well & will enjoy the holidays together.

Elsa

1977-12-?? (December 1977)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Lovina Swanson	To: Clarence & Ruth	
From: Wisconsin	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 2 (card)	Family news	

It was so nice to have you here last fall. I am feeling a bit better. Arthur has good days and bad ones, but he is still working as he always did. Helen & Chad are still here it looks like they will be here till the middle of January. Jim is to get here about the 18th of Dec if he isn't detained. We sure enjoy having Chad & Helen she takes me when I want to go. I hope to get my drivers license so I can take my self. I have to take a test. We have about 20 inches of snow on the level now. A storm was forecast for tomorrow but I guess it will miss us this time. Arthur had some work he wanted to get done so we are hoping it will warm up so he can get it done. Hope you all have a nice Christmas & a Blessed New Year  
- Arthur & Lovina

1977-12-?? (December 1977)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: Clarence & Ruth	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 1 (typed)	Family news	

December, 1977

Dear Folks:

Time for our holiday greetings again.

All goes well at the Carlsons. We are expecting all the family home for a few days. Barbara got home Tuesday night, Paul thought he would come this weekend and Dave won't be here until late on the 23rd, or early on the 24th.

Mary got back early in November, and has been substitute teaching at East Aurora. Yesterday she went to Kalamazoo, Michigan for interview, over which she had mixed emotions. Didn't know whether she would take it or not even if it is offered to her.

These are busy days for all of us. We will be with Bob's family on Christmas day, and I have asked the Swansons to come on the 26th, if weather permits.

We have had some real winter weather so far, but the past day or two it has warmed up again, so we get a breathing spell in between.

Tonight we go to Dad's office dinner. It is at some Holiday Inn near his office.

In November one of my attorneys had a dinner at his new home for the office and to celebrate my 10 years with the office. It was a nice party.

Thank you for visiting us this past year, I am sure we all enjoyed it.

Take care and have a Blessed Holiday Season

Lorraine

1978-01-?? (January 1978)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: Clarence & Ruth, and girls	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 2 (typed)	Family news	

January, 1978

Dear Clarence & Ruth, and girls:

Greetings from Illinois in 1978, in fact here the month of January is already more than half gone.

Our holiday season was very special, in fact no one wanted to leave when the last day came. Barbara was home for almost three weeks, Paul was home for two full weeks, and that was very special, because he hadn't been home for a year. It was good to have him around. Dave and his girlfriend came on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Day we spent with Bob's family and on the 26th the Swanson side was at our house. On Tuesday we all went downtown Chicago to see and hear the "Nutcracker" and then out to dinner. On Wednesday Ann had us for dinner at her apartment, and I don't know where Thursday and Friday went, but they disappeared, doing lots of odds and ends.

New Year's Eve was departure day. Dave and his Anne went to Michigan to spend some time at her home. Our Ann went back to her apartment, and Bob and I and Mary took Paul back to Ashland, Wisconsin. We drove up on Saturday and came back on Sunday. All went well, had some snow, but didn't have any real problems. It was just beautiful up there.

Barbara left on Monday, January 2, and we moved Mary to Michigan on Saturday, January 7. She took a teaching job in a small town near Kalamazoo. She and Ann had been up there apartment hunting a few days prior, and they found a real cute efficiency apartment, one nice room, kitchen and bath, lots of storage and closet space, so we gathered up some furniture and by means of a trailer moved her. It is a little more than a 3 hour drive. She needed a car, so we let her use the red one we had, and we had to get another one. So we had a lot of decisions to make, hopefully we made the right ones. She is doing fine, is a bit lonesome, but that will get better.

Last Sunday, the 15th, we went up to Art & Lovina's 40th wedding anniversary. It was a real nice affair. I was happy for Art, as he had worked hard to make it a success and a surprise for Lovina, which she surely was. They had a very simple service in the church, and then an open house at the church, with a wedding cake, coffee, tea, punch, flowers,

napkins with their names on, and it was a real party. After that there was a dinner at a local restaurant, and I think there must have been 40 or 50 for that, so all in all it was a good day. Elsa went with us.

So you can see we have been busy. Bob has been traveling too. Last week spent 4 days in Louisville and this week is in Canada. He is feeling pretty well, usual aches and pains, but the kind you can live with. We have lucked out so far and haven't gotten the flu, even though there is some around.

We have been having the typical winter weather. Gets down around zero or below, and then it warms up and we get some more snow. We have been fortunate so far though some places have really gotten clobbered with snow, southern Illinois got about 18 inches the other day.

Take care and let us hear from you when you have time. Hope you are all well and busy.

Love, Lorraine

<b>1978-11-10</b> (10 November 1978)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: "Folks" (Clarence & Ruth)	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 1 (typed)	Family news	

November 10, 1978

Dear Folks:

It has been a long time since I have heard anything from you, but no doubt it is my turn to write, at least that is what I will assume.

I hope all is going is well for you, that you are busy and healthy. Illinois is enjoying the most beautiful fall, I can remember. It has been absolutely super, the trees have been beautiful, a picture no artist could ever paint. No doubt the cold weather will come, but up until now it has been very good.

Bob has been in the hospital again. Was in for two weeks, came home this past Tuesday. Had prostate surgery, but came along real well, no problems. Is home recuperating now, and will probably be home until after Thanksgiving. Another repair job, and he has had quite a few, but each time he gets back going pretty fast. Now he is home repairing clocks. People here that he repairs them, so he has quite a backlog.

We get interesting letters from Mary. She is doing fine. Is lonesome naturally but is getting a tremendous education. Ann is planning to go down to see her, leaving December 30 and coming back January 7. They are both very excited about the trip.

We expect Dave and Paul both home for Christmas. Dave is going to fly home this year, the weather is usually unpredictable for such a long drive. They were all home for a few days in August before Mary left, so we have seen them quite recently.

We are looking forward to seeing Helen and Jim and their new little girl and Chad. What a nice family. The last I heard they were expecting to be home for Christmas. Lovina was fair the last time I talked to her. Elsa is fine. I talk to her once in a while, but rarely see her. She is working part time, I believe, and there are lots of people that depend on her for rides, so she too has her time well occupied.

Take care. Let us hear from you, and tell your family hello for us.

Lorraine

1978-12-02 (2 December 1978)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Lovina Swanson	To: Clarence Ruth & girls	
From: Wisconsin	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 1 (typed)	Family news	

Dec 2, 1978

Dear Clarence Ruth &amp; Girls! -

Greetings from Wisconsin. I sure did enjoy that few days with you all last March.

We are working on the truck - camper deal and also working on our business set up and just as soon as we get it all settled we will be free to go once in a while. I will be glad about that. Helen, Jim and children are coming in on the 18th - will be here till Jan 9th. Such a short time but they spent extra time last year then were here again in ~~March~~ June so I shall not complain. We just got pictures this morning & Chad is growing so fast. Vincent will be 39 on the 18th. Seems such a short time since he was little like Chad. That was the best time of my life. We didn't have much money but we handle a lot of money now and it goes for taxes of one kind or another. Richard and Blanche Lowery are married fifty years on the 8th and open house at the church in Newark on 10th. Arthur & I will go down on Saturday and come back on Sunday. I sure miss Grandma and Grandpa Lowery. Esther died three weeks ago she was 84. She has made her home at the Lutheran home in Ottawa ever since Grandma Lowery died in 1955. They had the funeral at the home so those people could attend and we went back there after the burial for lunch. Donnie Baker looks just like Jesse. A lot of the people we knew are gone. I forgot to tell you Ivan West died a year ago last June. Zora is widow now almost 5 yrs, lives in Marseilles. Margaret Finch is gone. The time is coming. 'Tis later than we think. Have a nice Christmas.

1978-12-?? (December 1978)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: "Folks" (Clarence & Ruth)	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 1 (typed)	Family news	

December, 1978

Dear Folks:

Not much news since my last letter, but wanted to send holiday greetings.

All goes well here. Bob is back to work, has been in and out for a couple of weeks, but will be through after today until after the first of the year, as he still has quite a bit of vacation time coming. He gets about 5 weeks I think.

Barbara got home yesterday and goes in the hospital tonight for a tonsilectomy tomorrow morning, so she doesn't have a very pleasant vacation to look forward to. She has had quite a bit of throat trouble the last couple years, and her being a nurse isn't very good, so a doctor recommended her having them out, and this seemed the best time. Hope she will recover rapidly.

Dave will get home on the 22nd. and Paul will drive home probably on the 23rd, if weather permits. The Swansons are coming on the 23rd., so I hope Paul gets home for that. We are anxious to see Helen and Jim and their family. Elsa thinks Dan may be home too. It will be good to see them all. Christmas Day we spend with Bob's family and other than that we will keep pretty busy. Ann leaves the 30th to go down to see Mary, and comes back the 7th. I am so glad she is going, it will be so good for both of them.

We went to Blanche & Richard Lowery's 50th wedding anniversary party last Sunday down in Newark, it was at the Lutheran church. It was a nice party - they both looked real good. Elsa went with us, and Art & Lovina were there, and a few other people that I knew.

Say hello to everyone for us, and may you all have a Blessed Holiday Season.

Take care, Lorraine

<b>1979-04-05</b> (5 April 1979)	Post date: 1979-04-06	Postmark: Phoenix, Arizona
From: Elsa Swanson	To: Mr & Mrs Clarence Swanson	
From: Arizona	To: 218 Hillview Ave Redwood City, California 94062	
Pages: 1 (post card)	Family news	

4-5-79

Hi Folks!

Just wanted to let you know that I'm now in Tempe, Arizona visiting Carla & Rick in their new home. I'm enjoying the delightful summer like weather, the lovely home of Carla & Rick. They take us to interesting place. When I say us, I mean Danny also. He made it here yesterday. It's getting warmer. I'll go home on the 17th of this month.

Love, Elsa

<b>1979-05-09</b> (9 May 1979)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: "Folks" (Clarence & Ruth)	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 1 (typed)	Family news	

May 9, 1979

Dear Folks:

As a letter writer the last few months, I probably wouldn't get a very good grade. I don't know where the time goes, but it sure does disappear.

Spring is here. It was a long, cold and snowy winter, but as usual we were more fortunate than most people. We had good snow equipment and if Bob wasn't home, we have good neighbors, and they use the equipment, so we always got cleaned out. It doesn't seem possible now that we really had that much snow. Everything is so pretty, it seems that our grass is greener than ever, and the tulips are out and it won't take long for the roses and peonies and all the other pretty things.

Mary came home on April 3 and left again on the 23rd. It was a good homecoming for all of us. Because she was home, all of the rest of the family came home for a few days.



Dave was with us from the 5th to the 8th and Paul was with us from the 6th to the 14th, and Barbara got home on weekends when she could, however it was a very busy time for her so she didn't have much time to spare.

Bob's brother-in-law was having heart surgery on the Thursday before Easter, so our usual Easter family get together had to take a different shape. Inasmuch as all our family was home, we decided to have everyone at our house on the Saturday night before Palm Sunday. It was a good party, there were 27 of us, a house full. Paul thought it a little more crowded than when they were all little. Everyone enjoyed it and it worked out fine. The surgery went fine and he got along well. We saw him this past Sunday and he has come a long way in three weeks.

Mary is fine, learning a lot, and is having lots of new experiences, both good and bad. She got back safely and is back in the groove again with her classroom. She is getting as much of an education as they are.

Art called me on Saturday night, and sounded pretty down. Lovina wasn't well, and they had just moved and I think it was all pretty overwhelming. We plan to get up there, but I am not sure when. Apparently Lovina's problems are a combination of her heart and diabetes, to very difficult problems. Helen has come home to give them help and moral support. They have a new address and phone no.

1439 Greenfield Ave. 414-763-4378  
Route 4 - Burlington, Wisconsin 53105

They certainly need our prayers along with a card or note.

We haven't made any definite vacation plans for this year, but hopefully we will get out to California sometime during the year. We have mixed emotions about going to Jamaica. I would like to see where Mary is, but conditions there are difficult, so we will decide about that later. She hopes to get home again for Christmas, 1979.

Take care and let us hear from you. Hello to all of your family for us.

Lorraine

<b>1979-12-07</b> (7 December 1979)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Elsa Swanson	To: Mr & Mrs Clarence Swanson	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 2	Family news	

Dec. 7, 1979

Hi!

Here it is Christmas again and also the time I somehow manage to do most of my letter writing. I wanted to get done sooner but a bad stubborn cold has prevented me from doing so. How is everything out in sunny California? Well I hope. We've been having a seige of mild sunny weather but today it is raining. We hope it won't turn to snow. So far there's only been one snow fall and that wasn't bad. It sure was nice to get together with you folks this year if only that bee sting didn't have to spoil it. Believe it or not I felt soreness in that leg for at least a month and a half after that. Severe cellulitis had set in plus much swelling. The doctor said I just have to stay away from bees or wasps. That's not easy to do. I am enclosing some prints of the pictures I took which I'm sure Betty and Elaine will recognize. I truly enjoyed the good time we had together then. I often wonder how you manage with



the "dog". I suppose you may have heard the sad news that Lovina had to go back to the hospital and have another toe removed. Lorraine told me about it. Poor Lovina. I do feel for her. My brother Gordy & family will fly to Houston Texas for the holidays so we won't be many this year. Carla & Rick won't come here until next spring. Gordy's daughter Patty plans to get married next Aug. 16th so it will be a busy summer. Lorraine had an extra ticket to a Chinese Acrobat performance at Paramount Theater so she invited me to go with her. It really was superb such perfection - such beauty and so very daring. I've never seen anything like it in my life. It's not easy for the Paramount Theater to keep getting all these professional performers due to the huge expense involved. Even though I don't work at the office at this time of the year I find plenty to keep me busy and then there's always Mildred to help out plus some friends who have no means of transportation. I hope to be fully retired next year, that should make it easier to get things done. Isn't it amazing how the senior citizen population keeps increasing? One wonders how the Social Security and pensions funds will hold up.

I must bring this letter to a close for now with best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Love, Elsa

1980-01-?? (January 1980)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: "Folks" (Clarence & Ruth)	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 1 (typed)	Family news	

January, 1980.

Dear Folks:

Happy New Year and all that good stuff to each of you.

Thank you Harry & Virginia for your picture. That was a nice surprise and a very good picture.

We had a nice holiday season, Mary's surprise visit made it unusually nice, and they were all home for more than 2 weeks. Paul is staying home for the winter, there is no work in Ashland, so he decided he had better come back, at least for the time being. He is working up in St. Charles for an IH truck center, but I am not sure how long that will last. Work is not very plentiful around here either, even though you can usually find something to do. I.H. is still on strike and has been since November, with no end in sight. Caterpillar is back after a strike of more than two months, and this all effects jobs in this area.

Mary is back safe and sound and we are thankful for that. Had a good letter from her yesterday.

Lovina is a big concern. We saw her during the holiday season and she was in good spirits and was determined that she would walk again. However on the 14th they did more surgery and removed her leg to right below the knee. I talked to Helen last weekend, she came through surgery well, and was looking better than she did before, hopefully they have got all the infection this time and if it will heal properly now, they can fit her with an artificial leg. If the weather permits we are planning to go up again this weekend. We want to see Jim before he leaves. He is going to drive back to California and has to be back before February 4.

We have had an unusual winter, up to this point, an exact opposite of last year. We have had somewhere in the area of 5 inches of snow, and many days in the 30's. It is great as far as I am concerned, but it isn't good for those that want to sell ski equipment or snow throwers. However, we still have plenty of time to get some real winter.

Take care all of you and hope you have Blessed New Year.

Lorraine

Ruth - You didn't have to send money for the pictures, it could have been a gift.

1980-05-?? (May 1980)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: "Folks" (Clarence & Ruth)	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 1 (typed)	Family news	

May, 1980

Dear Folks:

Greetings from Illinois, I realize it has been a while since I have written, but I always get around to it eventually.

We splurged and celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary by taking a trip to Jamaica. Sort of decided on the spur of the moment and we made it. Left on Thursday before Easter and came back on Monday. We both have Good Friday off, so that we only missed two days of work. It was a delightful trip. Ann came down on Friday and then she stayed with Mary the next week, as it was vacation week for both of them. We spent two nights in Kingston, that is a large town and is where Mary lives. We saw part of that town and went out to the country where she teaches, met the lady that she lived with last year and part of each week this year. She was a beautiful Jamaican lady, had us to lunch. Then we spent two nights in Ocha Rios, which is a very beautiful resort area. So we saw the very poor and the very lush. It is a beautiful country, the land of sun and sea. Beautiful white sand beaches and blue sky, and oh so much poverty and political unrest. We rented a car and you drive on the left side of the road, but as usual Bob mastered that too. It was good for us to see where she has been as now we can understand so much better the situation.

She will be finished there on June 22 and is planning a 3 week trip to South America and if all goes well will back in the states around mid-July. Then she will go job hunting, probably in Michigan.

Barbara graduates next Sunday - May 18th. Might be a hard day for me, hard to give up my last one, but so thankful that she has been able to get a good education and will be doing work that she enjoys and whereby she can help people. She has a job at Burnham City Hospital in Champaign, has rented an apartment and will be starting there on June 2. She will be taking her State Boards in July.

Yesterday Bob and I went up, met Art and Lovina and took them out to dinner at a nice restaurant near Elkhorn. I called Art on Saturday night, to see if we could work something out. He made the reservations and it worked out fine. He hadn't told Lovina so she was surprised to see us. We had a good visit. She doesn't hear well, but she could understand a good deal of what I said. They manage quite well with a wheel chair and a walker, this place had a lift so there was no problem getting her up. Today they were going to go and she was to be fitted with a temporary leg, just to get used to one I guess. If she can stay

reasonably well, I believe she will master this. She is an intelligent woman, and I don't think she is going to spend the rest of her life in a wheelchair.

Paul is still with us, still working in St. Charles. I.H. finally went back to work after a strike of 6 months. That was very hard on the company, the employees and lots of other people.

Take care, write when you have time, and hello to all for us.

Lorraine

<b>1980-08-10</b> (10 August 1980)	Post date: 1980-08-11	Postmark: Florence, Italy
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: Clarence & Ruth	
From: Italy	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 1 (post card)	Family news	

8/10/80

Clarence & Ruth,

You have both been to Europe, so you can understand how thrilled we are with it. Have been to the Isle of Capri, Pompeii, Rome, Tivoli Gardens, Assisi. And tomorrow leave for Venice. It has been a great trip, the group is wonderful, and we are thoroughly enjoying it.

Lorraine

<b>1980-08-25</b> (25 August 1980)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Elsa Swanson	To: Ruth, Clarence, Betty, Elaine & all	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 4	Family news	

Monday Aug. 25, 1980

Dear Ruth, Clarence, Betty, Elaine & all,

Just wanted to let you know that we survived our Scandinavian trip very well. Everything was just great - enjoyed the Norwegian scenic beauty on our fjord tour. It was constant beauty all the way. All the homes, land, buildings and historical places are so well kept up as well as the streets, roadways & highways & we sure enjoyed all that delicious smorgåsbord food of which we consumed plenty. The best part of that was that I lost 2 pounds. I took 260 pictures (snapshots). About 10 were spoiled. The SAS plane rides were very smooth & pleasant. Seemed so strange to find snow in Tyin, Norway and also have only one hour of darkness during the night. We took an all day excursion tour by boat & bus our last day in Oslo which was most delightful. Early next morning Sun. July 6th we left by train for Malmö Sweden which took about 10 hours. We had to change trains at Göteborg but there was no time at all to even try phoning Axel Brink. My cousins Anita, Inga and their husbands were at the Malmö train station to meet us. Then we all went to Arlöv to the home of Helge & Anita and had a very good baked salmon dinner with all their best linens, dishes & silver. They made us feel like we belonged to the royalty. We stayed with them for one week during which time we were constantly going various places sightseeing, feasting and visiting our other relatives in that territory. Then Helge & Anita

drove us to our next stop which was Ebba & Arvid's home in Sölvesborg. Ebba is an old friends of ours who had lived in St. Charles for many years so we did have a lot of fun staying with her for a week. My cousin Lars & his wife Ulla were invited to a roast beef dinner when they came to get us the following Sunday & to bring us to their home in Kalmar. There for the first time I met my Aunt Asta, cousin Gordon, his family and my uncle Hjalmar, whom I haven't seen for 48 years. He lives in Öland & we went to his home the following day and it was just great to see the sights, the churches they had attended and at Ottenby where my dad lived as a boy. My grandfather was foreman in charge of the King's horses at that place. It was a thrill to ride over that long new bridge which connects the mainland with Öland. Lars & Ulla took us to the Orrefors & Boda famous glass companys. We also saw the Domkyrka and Kalmar's Slott. I was sorry I didn't get to meet any relatives on my mother's side. We did find my cousin Maregareta's home but no one was home. Phone calls were unanswered. We were fortunate that Mildred's niece Britta & husband Gösta came to Kalmar and drove us to Tidaholm where they live in the outskirts. Again we were treated most graciously and they certainly outdid themselves to entertain and feed us. We had their whole upstairs apt. to ourselves.

We had the most ideal weather there. Previously we had some rain but they were just short showers. Britta took us many places which were so very lovely and beautiful flower gardens everywhere. We especially enjoyed our 4 hour boat trip on lake Vättern and up Göta canal. Had coffee & lunch aboard the boat. Then for our last stay in Stockholm Britta drove us to Skövde where we caught our train which went direct to Stockholm. She even made seat reservations for us. At the Central Railway Station in Stockholm we found my Uncle John and his daughter my cousin Gudrun to welcome us and Gudrun drove us to my Aunt Ellen's apt. home just outside of Stockholm (in Hägersten). She had prepared a most delicious meal for us. Gudrun's man Stig was there to. Neither John nor Ellen are too well but they bore up well during our week's stay with them. Ellen is another very good cook. We sure got to see a lot of Stockholm and also Skansen which was a delightful place. We also were at Stig & Gudrun's apt. home. He is a special baker by trade & cooked the entire meal. Very yummy. I phoned Eric & Birget Karlsen (Carl's cousin) from Aunt Ellen's home. They were living in their summer home in Huddinge, not far from Hagersten. They came to get us so we could spend an afternoon with them. They treated us to lunch at a nearby restaurant and later we had coffee and goodies at their home. We ate a lot of raspberries from their garden. I even got to talk to Teckla, the nurse on the phone. She is grandpa Swanson's youngest sister (85) and sounds real good. She lives alone. Then they took us to their son John's home and met his pretty wife and 2 sweet little daughters. He is an engineer and has a very nice home. Didn't get to meet his brother who is a pilot on a large aircraft. I did take pictures of them & plan to send you prints later. Before I close this letter I must tell you the big news. Dan called the night of August 13th and said that he and Laura McIntosh got married that day. Dan is now 30 and she is 25. She is also a Scientologist. Dan says she's beautiful 5 ft 9 in tall, artistic, musical and even left handed like he is. She sounded like a very fine person. She wrote me a very nice letter and I'm hoping to get one from Dan soon. He assured me that I could trust his judgment as to her being the right one for him. They were married in Mexico and plan to have a regular wedding at her parents home in Indiana in the spring when they both can have leave. Well that's it for now. Hope all is well with you folks.

Love, Elsa

1980-09-12 (12 September 1980)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: "Folks:" (Clarence & Ruth)	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 2 (typed)	Family news	

September 12, 1980

Dear Folks:

It has been over three busy week since we came from Europe, but today I can give you a brief resume of our delightful trip.

On a range of from 1 to 10, I would give it an 11. It was super and we both enjoyed it immensely. It was very well planned. There were 76 of us on this tour. We had two buses, and each bus had a guide. Ours was from England. She was tall, attractive, intelligent and very pleasant, had such a nice voice, really did a good job. Our driver was from Holland and he did a good job too. Except for our first night, our accomodations were first class everywhere.

We flew from O'Hare to New York, and from there to Rome, changed planes in Rome, and flew to Naples, here we took a bus to Sorrento, where we had our first two nights. From here we took a hydrofoil to the Isle of Capri. Beautiful sight. Leaving Sorrento, we had a tour of Pompei, that too was really good, and then on to Rome. Here we saw so much, but a few of the highlights were, St. Paul's cathedral, the Coliseum, the Sistine Chapel, the Vatican, which of course included St. Peter's. We through coins in the fountain. We were in Rome for two nights, and the second night we went to Tivoli gardens for dinner and a tour. Here there were over one hundred lighted waterfalls, unreal.

From Rome we went on the Florence, but had a tour of Assisi on the way. This was great, the your priest that told about it did such a good job. He talked about St. Francis, as if he had almost known him himself. I loved Florence, here we saw the statue of David, along with much more, but that was one of the highlights. Florence was the gold and leather center of the world. So Bob and I each bought a leather coat, and we got the girls some earrings. From Florence we had a trip to Pisa and believe me that tower is really leaning, 30 feet at this time.

From Florence we went to Venice. I realized that Venice had canals, but I did not know that it was completely surrounded by water. Here we had a gondola ride, along with so much more.

From Venice we went on the Salzburg, here we saw where Sound of Music had been filmed, heard a string quartet of Mozart music, and on an on. We went to Innsbrook and on to Oberamagau, here we spent two nights in a lovely motel in a small town near by. I say that our trip was the cake, and the Passion Play was the frosting. It was very well done, we had perfec seats, the music was great, and it was everything that it should be.

After Oberamgau, we went on St. Moritz, Switzerland and then back to Lake Como, for our last night. Each of these places were delightful. We flew back from Milan.

Of course between all the beautiful cities, were the mountains, the valleys, the streams and the little villages. They told us that it had been the worst summer in Europe in 50 years until two weeks before we came, then it warmed up and dried up, and it was truly at its peak. Everything so green and so many flowers.

I could go on and on, but I realize that you have all been there too, so you know what I am talking about. I especially liked the beautiful marble staircases and pillars, and in all of the cathedral. We see so little marble here that I guess I really appreciated it.

As I said everything was well planned, our buses drove over 1600 miles, we had no problems, no one got sick or hurt. The only thing we had to do was to put our luggage out in front of our doors but a certain time in the morning and they were delivered to our rooms at our next stop. Our accomodations were great and we saw so much, that we really feel we had a bargain.

We will be glad to show you our pictures anytime that you want to hop on an airplane and come and see them.

All goes well here. Bob is still traveling, will come back from Baltimore tonight. Paul is still with us, has worked in St. Charles for over nine months now, Ann is back in school, Mary had a three week tour of St. America and got home on July 18. She hasn't found a teaching job yet, but keeps busy doing other things, she is out in Michigan now. Barbara loves her job and living in Champagne.

This is all for tonight. I still have a few more things to do before I go home.

Take care and let us hear from you.

Love, Lorraine.

<b>1980-10-10</b> (10 October 1980)	Post date: 1980-10-10	Postmark: Jerusalem
From: Virginia Swanson	To: (Clarence & Ruth)	
From: Israel	To: 218 Hillview Redwood City, California	
Pages: 1 (post card)	Family news	

We are having a very good time. We spent yesterday in Galilee and this morning we went to Bethlehem. We will stay an extra week and come home Oct 21. Virginia

<b>1980-12-01</b> (1 December 1980)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Lovina Swanson	To: Clarence & Ruth	
From: Wisconsin	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 2	Family news	

Monday, Dec 1st

Dear Clarence & Ruth -

Here it is almost Christmas time again. We had Advent event program yesterday in our church We went to the program called "Getting ready for Christmas". I hadn't had the Christmas spirit but now I get the urge. I feel fine. I got my leg in September & get around with a walker. I've tried to go with out it but two or three steps is all. I have a neighbor next door, had her leg off in '78, she walks with out the walker or a cane & drives her car, goes all by her self so I have hopes. I hope you are feeling better Clarence & no more trips to the hospital for a while. I have lots of things to do. I am making quilts and I have yarn on hand. I want to make a stole & an afgan. That will be a winters work. Then I have some pillowcases to finish. I can find enough to do but I don't think I'll ever be able to run a foot



race. I'll be thankful if I can just walk. Any one who can should give thanks every day for the privilege. Well we had our first snow of the season on Thanksgiving day but it melted as fast as it came, Friday morning there was an inch on the ground. It is mostly gone now & is dark & dreary. We wish you & your family a Blessed Christmas and a very good & happy New Year.

Lovina

<b>1980-12-09</b> (9 December 1980)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Elsa Swanson	To: Ruth, Clarence, Betty, & Elaine	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 2	Family news	

December 9, 1980

Dear Ruth, Clarence, Betty & Elaine

I'm trying to finish my Christmas letter writing at wee hours of this morning but I'm experiencing some difficulties with my pens, they all seem to be running dry and I still have 9 more letters to write. I'm enclosing several pictures which I took while visiting with your cousin Eric, Birgit and their son John Eric and family. I used to correspond with his mother Ellen when Grandpa Swanson was so sick. His Aunt Teckla called while I was there so I got to talk to her in Swedish. She's the nurse, is now 85 years old & lives alone. Birgit treated us on coffee & goodies. We ate a lot of delicious raspberries from their garden. I understand that he is diabetic. Their son is some sort of an engineer and they have a beautiful home. Their other son flies a big jet plane. We sure enjoyed every minute of our six weeks stay in Norway & Sweden. I took about 250 pictures and had them with me when I went to Lorraine & Bob's the Saturday before Thanksgiving when Wayne was there. Art, Lovina, Ann, Mary & their cousin Pam were there also. Lorraine served a most delicious dinner and they showed us their beautiful slide pictures taken in Italy and Jamaica. Very interesting. They tell me that you, Clarence have had some problems which I hope have cleared up by now. We were happy to see Carla & Rick for one week in September. I picked them up at O'Hare on Sept. 25th. Carla has studied long & hard for her new job at the insurance company and is now an underwriter. Rick is glad to get the painting job at the State of Arizona University so now he can have regular hours & be close to home. They are buying a cabin near the mountains where they go often to climb cross country skiing etc. Dan got married to Laura Aug. 13th. They plan to come home next spring. She sounds like a fine girl & I'm anxious to see them. It's a relief to be fully retired by time flies fast anyway. Mildred and other people depend on me for rides and other things and there's always something going on especially now at Christmastime. I had my brother & family here for Thanksgiving and also Mildred & friend Ruth. Gordy brought the turkey & Mildred the pumpkin pies.

Now I wonder if this pen will survive nine more letters. It better because most of them are going to Sweden. Hope you will have a nice Christmas & find much happiness & a healthy New Year.

Love, Elsa



<b>1980-12-??</b> (December 1980)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: "Folks:" (Clarence & Ruth)	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 2 (typed)	Family news	

December, 1980

Dear Folks:

Hope all goes well for all of you. It is such a busy time, so this will be but a short greeting.

Our family will all be home for a short time. Barbara being a first year nurse has of course the least time off, but she does have Christmas Day off, so if the weather cooperates, she will drive home that morning, and then will have to be back to work on Friday at 3. Dave comes in this Friday, the 19th, will be with us until the 26th, then he goes to Seattle for a seminar, and then will be back again for a few days before he returns to Maine.

We have had a busy fall, have had several small groups in to share our pictures.

We certainly enjoyed having Wayne spend a week with us. It was kind of Mary to share him with us, after having him gone all week.

Haven't seen or heard from Art & Lovina since Wayne was here, but if the weather is alright, maybe they can drive down while our family is home. I am sure they are missing Helen and her family this year.

Take care everybody. Hope you are feeling better Clarence. The enclosed picture is one taken for our church directory.

Hope you have a blessed holiday season.

Lorraine

<b>1981-04-30</b> (30 April 1981)	Post date: 1981-04-30	Postmark: Milwaukee, WI
From: Lovina Swanson	To: Mr & Mrs Clarence Swanson & Girls	
From: 1439 Greenfield, Rt 4 Burlington, WI 53105	To: 218 Hillview Street Redwood City, California 94062	
Pages: 4	Family news	

4/30/81

Dear Clarence, Ruth &amp; Girls

Greetings from Wisconsin. We are having our rainy season. When we were passing through Alabama and Louisiana they were having theirs. Arthur says we need the rain. I am feeling fine. I vacuumed the floor in the front bed room. I move the bed & dresser. Now I am tired & its nine o'clock. Arthur is gone I guess there is a pump out at the chicken farm. We had a nice trip last winter. We left here Jan 9th got to Jacksonville on Thursday about 5.00 & parked on my nephews driveway. Then his mother flew in on Friday night about 9.30 We went to the house for cake & ice cream. We spent Saturday Sunday & Monday with Lucretia & Margret. We didn't see much of Paul. He was going to school for the navy

& when he was home he had to study. We left on Tuesday morning & Lucretia flew back to Washington on Thursday. She has two years till she retires, then she is moving down there. My youngest sister, her youngest daughter & her son are suppose to move down there this June. When we left there we went to New Symirna (Smyrna?) Beach looking for a former Pastor they told us he had moved to Lakeland. We went to Sebring for a week. We have friends there, had dinner with them one night & went to church with them one Sunday. Arthur & I went to Cypress Gardens one day. It was a nice day & the place was nice. We got there about 8.00 in the morning & eft about 5.00. Then we went to Fort Meyers & found Irwin West. He fixed dinner for us. He has a nice trailer, one bed room. He has been going there for sixteen years. I didn't realize it had been that long. Arthur went & got him twice & took him over to our camper & he had dinner with us. Then we went to Lakeland after a week at Fort Meyers. Tried to find our Pastor. He had moved to one of the Carolinas. We stayed a week at Lakeland then went to Clearwater & put our trailer in a camp site & found some friends. They had things to do except Sunday morning so we went & had breakfast with them. I met her in a church circle at Lake Geneva in 1947. They lived here at Country Estates for six or seven years. Last Fall they bought a mobile home in Florida. Then on Monday we started for San Antonio Texas. We had a good day that day. Pulled into camp a truck came and filled our truck with gas. There was a restaurant right there so we walked over for supper. The next morning we left at 7.30 & it started to rain & 40 mile winds so we pulled into camp around 10.30 only got 130 miles that day. It rained all day & night & the winds blew. Arthur was in bed all day, thought he was getting the flu. Later he decided, something he ate at the restaurant didnt agree with him. We left there on Thurs. went through Alabama and Louisiana then Texas got there Friday night. Went to my sisters on Saturday & had dinner with them. She asked to come on Sunday to have dinner with them. They took us for a boat ride on the river after dinner. Then we went to the Alamo. My niece took us out for supper. We spent three weeks in San Antonio. They came to the camper one Sunday for dinner. We ate out side. It was so nice. Then we left for home, got here Mar 9th. We have had good days & rainy days & dark cold days since we got back. I dont know much else. Ive been busy sewing. Was working on a quilt. I had yarn so made granny blocks for an afgan. Was supposed to make fifteen rounds. I made seven. I have to get yarn to put them together. I can keep busy I just hate to sit & do nothing. I bake & get meals walk with out the walker in side.

Lovina

<b>1982-08-30</b> (30 August 1982)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: Clarence & Ruth	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 1 (typed)	Family news	

August 30, 1982

Dear Clarence & Ruth:

I decided that I had better get a note off to you so that you will know our tentative plans. We will be leaving here either the 10th or 11th of September, and should be able to drive it in 3 or 3 1/2 days, so we should arrive at Harry's on Tuesday, the 14th. We will probably on stay a day or so there, and then drive up North. Mary has a place to live, but she has to find her around abit. If Wayne is going to be home we hoped that maybe we could drive up there on Saturday, and spend a few hours with them, and then we have reservations to fly

back on Sunday noon, the 19th? Do you think we will be able to follow that schedule? I hope so. I can't tell you exactly when we will arrive at your place, but you can look for us somewhere in that area.

Regarding your plans to travel here, you can come during the last two weeks of September, or the last two weeks of October, or even up to November. The weather should be good, expect for possible rain, all through November. We have plans to go to the Smokey mountains, the second weekend of October, but then should be free the rest of the fall. You work out whatever is best for you.

This past weekend we drove 1400 miles up to Michigan, pulling a trailer, to get Mary's things. It was a long trip, but all went well, and it is a good job done.

Take care and we will see you soon. Our phone number is 901-772-4677, if you should need to call us.

Lorraine

<b>1983-05-27</b> (27 May 1983 )	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: Clarence & Ruth	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 2 (typed)	Family news	

May 27, 1983

Dear Clarence & Ruth:

It has been a mighty long time since I wrote you a letter, so here goes. I have been working the past two weeks, and will have one more week. There is a young lady attorney here in town that just opened her office in March. Her first secretary did not work out, and her new one is coming on June 6, so I am the fill-in. It has been fun, makes me wish I had a part time job. This office is beautiful, probably the nicest one in town, with good equipment and nice furnishings. She definitely needs a full time secretary, even though she is not real busy yet, I am sure she will be. We have known them for about a year, he is a doctor and she is an attorney, and they came here about three years ago from Nova Scotia. Real fine people.

I plan to go to Illinois the week of June 6th. Barbara is being married on September 3, and the first shower for her is in St Charles on June 11. It should be a fun week, hopefully we will see lots of our dear friends, and then Bob will fly up for the weekend, and we will spend some time with his family.

God willing, we plan to go to England on July 16, but we are not going to Sweden. We have only two weeks, and decided that was not long enough to see both countries, so this year it is England, because Ann is there, and she will be our guide. She has had a wonderful year and will have lots to show us. She will return the second week in August.

Bob and I both had foot surgery in February, I don't know if I told you that or not and they are coming along fine. Paul was with us for four weeks when we first came home, and he was a real treasure. He cooks, cleans, shops, does yard work, and anything else that needs to be done, and does it all well. I tell him he would make someone a good wife.

Mary has had an extremely busy year, she leaves for Denver on June 1 and will be working at a hospital there for the summer. She is doing her CPA - Clinical Pastoral Assignment, apparently something they all have to do. She will be there until mid-August,

and then back to the Midwest for the wedding, and then back to California again. She will have a busy summer, and hopefully a meaningful one.

Dave is job hunting, his assignment in Washington D.C. is finished this summer. He has his application in various places, and has an interview in a couple of weeks out at Oregon State University. He felt flattered even to get an interview there, so he will just wait and see what happens. He can go to a laboratory in Maine, and in some ways that is very tempting to them, as Mary Lou's family is there, and they love that area, but at the same time he would like to do some teaching along with research.

Barbara keeps very busy, likes her job very much, even though it is long hours. She is excited about her upcoming marriage, as she should be. She has just moved into a new apartment, where they will be living after they are married. Nate is with State Farm Insurance, he has lived in Bloomington all his life, except for the one year that he was working for Zales Jewelers in Indiana. They met in college, and have been dating since their Junior year, and she has already been out three years, so they have been going together quite awhile. The wedding will be in Bloomington. She has transferred her membership from Aurora to St. John's Lutheran Church in Bloomington.

You will probably get bored reading all about the family. We are fine - Bob keeps real busy. It has been hard to keep the yard work done with all the rain that we have had. Sometimes he gets some help with the mowing. Yard work is not very important compared to the problems that the poor farmers have had. It is an extremely hard year for them, and the surrounding states are even worse off than Tennessee.

I try to call Art every couple of weeks to keep a check on him. He has sold his camper and truck combination, which he felt he needed to do, but said it was kind of hard to see it go. He is feeling pretty good, back is better, but the last time I talked to him he was having trouble with his eyes, had an appointment with the doctor.

Elsa called me last night -surprise. We had a good visit, said that she has put her house up for sale, plans to move into a duplex, that her brother Gordy owns. The house needs a lot of work, and it is hard for her to get it done, and also very expensive, so it probably would be better for her to get rid of it. She is expecting Carla and Rick home in June. Elsa will be at the shower for Barbara, so we will get to see her then.

Give our love to your family and come and see us whenever you are inclined to do so. Take good care.

God Bless You, Lorraine

1983-07-22 (22 July 1983)	Post date: 1983-07-22	Postmark: Leicester
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: Clarence & Ruth Swanson	
From: England	To: 218 Hillview Ave Redwood City, California	
Pages: 1 (post card)	Family news	

Greetings from England. All has gone well. We spent 5 days in London, and that wasn't nearly long enough. Now we are in the town where Ann has been living, and from here we go out to the countryside. It has been a great trip.

Lorraine & Bob

<b>1983-12-??</b> (December 1983)	Post date: 1	Postmark:
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: "Folks" (Clarence & Ruth)	
From: Tennessee	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 1	Family news	

December, 1983

Dear Folks,

Time for holiday greetings. Hope all is going well for you.

Ruth, I suppose your job is coming to an end. As for me, when we had move, giving up my job and my Church was the two hardest things. But we learn with whatever situation we are faced.

We are fine and keeping busy. Last weekend we had Aurora Company. They came Thursday night and left Monday. We had a real good time, but I am a little further behind with my cards, etc.

Our family will all be her, except Dave & Mary Lou. Too far so soon again after the wedding.

Take good care and have a good holiday season.

Lorraine

<b>1984-08-??</b> (August 1984)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: "Folks" (Clarence & Ruth)	
From: Tennessee	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 2 (typed)	Family news	

Dear Folks:

Greetings from Tennessee. All goes well here. We were glad that Mary got over to see you before she left. She came home on July 4, and left again on July 17, and is up in Oregon with Dave and Mary Lou. She plans to leave for Colorado mid August.

The wedding was great and I wished that you all had been there to share it with us. I told Bob last Saturday that I wished we could turn the clock back, and do it all over again, it was such fun.

Bethlehem Church - St. Charles is a beautiful Lutheran church, with a large parking lot. Bob and I were married in the old Bethlehem Church, but this one is probably 25 or 30 years old. There were about 250/300 there, several of her first grade students, came with their parents, and they were so cute. It was a real thrill for them to see their teacher married. They were not invited to the reception, but they all received a cup cake with a rose on top.

Ann planned the wedding completely, and she did a great job, of course it took a lot of people to carry out her plans. She had music both before and after the ceremony. It was a family, the mother played the piano, I am not sure what the father played, as I never got to see them, but the two children played violins. The boy is in 7th grade and his sister is in the 5th grade, but Ann had them both as 1st. graders, and she has been close to the

family. The extra music was great, as people had something to listen to before, and as they waited to be ushered out. One of Ann's college roommates has 4 1/2 year old identical twin girls, and they were the flower girls, and they were precious. Their mother had trained them well, so that they would walk slow and together. Our Mary was the assisting minister. She was wearing her new Alb, and a cross that Dad and I had just given her. She looked great. She read one of the lessons and helped serve communion, and then she gave the message. She had written it for Ann & Jim personally, had a little humor in it, but very meaningful.

The reception was at the Baker Hotel, downtown St. Charles. We had brunch there, once when you were with us Clarence & Ruth. It is a great place. The gardens were so well done. There was plenty of room for people to move around, and go outside if they so desired. Dinner was in the rainbo room - the floor lights up. There were 221 for a sit down dinner. They did a great job of serving so many people, with excellent food, and then the band played from 8 to 11. So many dear people, some of our Aurora friends, all of Bob's family, brother, sisters, nieces and nephews, Jim's parents, and his 3 brothers and 1 sister, aunt, uncles, cousins, and friends, about 50, most of which cam from Michigan, a few people that work with Jim in Cincinnati and many, many people that Ann worked with in Glenview. We were happy that Art and Helen & Jim and their three children could be there. We don't get to see them very often. All in all it couldn't have been better.

They went to Bermuda for a week, but are back in Cincinnati now. She called today. Now they have to get back to reality, and Ann's first project will be to try to find a job. Hope she will be successful.

So now we have a new son - he is a good man and we feel very comfortable with him. We drove back on Sunday. Dave & Mary Lou and our Mary had an early flight on Tuesday morning.

Bob's plant is on shut down for two weeks, so he hasn't been as busy as usual. Our weather hasn't been too bad, and we have had a couple of good rains, so at this point the farmers are in good shape.

Barbara and her husband are in Canada this week on vacation and Paul stayed in Illinois after the wedding, to do some painting, so I guess that covers the whole family.

You are most welcome to come and see us anytime you so desire.

Take good care and hope that you are all feeling well.

Love, Lorraine

<b>1985-02-01</b> (1 February 1985)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Elsa Swanson	To: Ruth	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 2	Family news	

Feb 1, 1985

Dear Ruth,

You have been in my thoughts and prayers most every day especially since Lorraine called. I sincerely hope you have found good help to bring you back to good health again. I can understand that your health problems must have weakened you quite a bit. That must be hard on such an ambitious person like you are.



I'll be leaving for Arizona Feb. 12th. I haven't been there on any long trip for 5 years so that's why Carla & Rick gave me a \$300 check for a Christmas gift. It sure will be good to see them again & also Dan who is now living with them until he gets established with a job & can earn enough rent for an apartment. I'm glad he quit working for the Church of Scientology. Since he had no money it's a bit difficult for him to start everything from scratch again. I really couldn't help him with much but I did send him money to tide him over. He is now doing carpentry work for a furniture company. I do feel confident if he keeps in good health he will be able to make a good living. He said he wants to live near me so he can be of help to me eventually. That made me feel good. I don't think I could thrive in hot climate. We've been having sub-zero weather lately & frequent snow falls so I've been doing a lot of shoveling. My brother in North Carolina said they had an all time low of 8° below zero.

When people ask me how I am I always say "fine" but I do have problems with insomnia high blood pressure obesity etc. So far no flu or colds for the past couple years.

Our Batavia Senior Club went on a bus trip to Ft. Atkinson, Wis to the Fireside Theatre to a Hawaiian show and a Hawaiian luau. The performers were Hawaiian & it was most enjoyable. We made it in spite of the snow.

I will try phoning you as soon as I can when I arrive in Tempe. My plane arrives around 3:15 P.M. Carla will pick me up from work. Hope your phone is still 1-415-366-6242 otherwise I'll use directory assistance.

Love to all, Elsa

<b>1985-02-15</b> (15 February 1985)	Post date: 1985-02-19	Postmark: Phoenix AZ
From: Elsa Swanson	To: Mr & Mrs Clarence Swanson & family	
From: Tempe Arizona	To: 218 Hillview Ave Redwood City, California	
Pages: card	Family news	

Greetings from Tempe to you all!

It was good to talk to Ruth last Wed. and we sure do hope & pray that both you and Clarence will return to good health again soon. Now I know what it is like to enjoy balmy summer weather in the midst of winter and its great to get away from all the snow shoveling. Now I'll get a chance to see Carla & Rick's cabin in the mountains this weekend & other places. I sent cards to Hawaii & Tennessee also.

I leave here the 26th. Your "in-law". Elsa.

<b>1985-08-20</b> (20 August 1985)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: Ruth	
From: Tennessee	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 1 (typed)	Family news	

August 20, 1985



Dear Folks:

Wanted to let you know that we have a new grandson. Daniel Albert Nathan was born on August 11, 1985. He weighed 6 lbs. 2 oz. Mother and son are both doing well, and also the father.

We plan to go up Labor Day weekend. We will see them then go on up to Aurora and St. Charles. That way we see most of Bob's family and some of our friends, and make it a productive weekend.

We had planned to come out to California and Oregon this fall, but I think we have changed our mind. Dave & Mary Lou hope to get home for Christmas, so we have more or less decided that we will come out in May when Mary graduates.

I was glad to hear that Ann & Mary got to see you when they were out in that area. Ann is back home now, she and Jim moved in their new home last Saturday. We will plan a weekend to go up there soon. That is about an 8 or 9 hour drive.

Hope Betty & Elaine have a great vacation.

Take good care - hope that you are feeling well.

Lots of love, Lorraine

<b>1985-12-07</b> (7 December 1985)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Elsa Swanson	To: Ruth, Clarence & girls	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: card	Family news	

12-7-85

Dear Ruth, Clarence & girls

I phoned Art today & he said you were in the hospital, Clarence. I hope you are back home by now. What about the rest of you, are you well? We are all quite well here. Mildred isn't too bad but she isn't good either. She enjoyed the open house at church for her 85th birthday. We had a big turn out. Carla & Rick gave me a wonderful present last year - a trip to Arizona & back. Dan was there too. I went in Feb. The weather was beautiful like summer. Dan & Laura are separated. I asked him to come & live with me. He came in June & is working steadily. It's good to have him. Gordy & Sally expect to retire in 1986 & travel a lot in their new Winnebago mobile home. We sure had a nice get together with Lorraine, Bob & all five children & their families both for dinner at Wilsons and picnic lunch at Bob's sister Dorothy's home (40 people in all). I'm having 12 people here for Christmas Eve. We've had a severe cold spell but now its nice & sunny, some snow.

I'm getting writer's cramp but I'm determined to finish my cards today.

Warm greetings from Dan & I.

Love, Elsa

<b>1985-12-17</b> (17 December 1985)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: "Folks"	
From: Tennessee	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 1 (typed)	Family news	

December 17, 1985

Dear Folks:

Greetings from Tennessee. Another holiday season is with us. Time goes so fast.

This has been a busy fall for us. This past weekend, our friends from St. Charles came down, and they brought Elsa with them. It was the first time she had ever been here, so it was good that she could come. They came Thursday evening and left Monday morning. One of the big Baptist churches in Jackson has a great musical performance each holiday season, that is called The Living Christmas Tree. We had seen it the past two years, and I knew that our friends would enjoy it, so that was one of the reasons they came down. I think we all had a real good weekend.

We went to Ann & Jim's for thanksgiving. Drove up on Thursday and back on Sunday. it is about a 10 hour drive. It was the first that we had the opportunity to see their new home. We had a good time. Barbara and Nate were supposed to come too, but the baby was sick, so they had to stay home. We had been together in their house in Bloomington in October when the baby was baptized. Paul was with us at that time too.

We moved into our new church on October 20, so that was a big day for Messiah. We had been meeting in a Catholic school for about four years, so this is very special. It is small, but beautiful.

Mary, Barb and Ann all fly in on Friday, the 20th. We will be spending the afternoon and early evening at the airport. Barbara and Ann leave again on Tuesday morning, and Mary leaves Wednesday afternoon. Time will be short, but it will be good. We have quality time now instead of quantity time. Paul will be here to, but he will drive and I expect him to stay for a while. Dave and Mary Lou won't be coming. They just bought a house and they have moved into it about two weeks ago. We will miss them, but we did see them in Illinois over Labor Day weekend.

I check up on Art every once in a while. He is enjoying having Helen and her family so close.

Hope you all have a good holiday season. The enclosed picture was taken Labor Day weekend, when we were all together in Illinois. It was taken at Bob's sister's house. Everyone was there except Jim. He was in Michigan.

<b>1988-08-12</b> (12 August 1988)	Post date: 1988-08-12	Postmark: South Suburban
From: Elsa Swanson	To: Clarence Swanson family	
From: 522 Elm St, Batavia, IL 60510	To: 218 Hillview Ave Redwood City, California	
Pages: card	Family news	

12 AUG 1988

Hi everyone!

Just a few lines to let you know how much I appreciated your wonderful hospitality last week. It sure was a great pleasure to attend Evelyn's & Darrell's beautiful wedding ceremony and all the activities connected with it. They make an ideal couple. May the Lord grant them much happiness, peace & contentment in years to come.

It certainly was great delight to see all of you again also Harry, Barbara, Vincent, Annie, & to meet Darrell & Lynelle.

My plane ride home went fine. For lunch I had steak, potatoes, vegetables, tossed salad, Limpa bread & desert. My brother Gordy and Sally were at O'Hare to meet me. It was 91 degrees in Chicago and the temperature on Monday showed 101° plus that awful humidity. Real tropical weather including thunderstorm Wed. I do envy you lucky people with your idea climate.

The fellow at the photo shop said my kind of camera is off the market so instead of repairing it I will get a new one. I'm enclosing five of the best pictures which I think you might like to have. I did so want to get pictures of Betty, Harry, Barbara, Vincent, Annie, Darrell & Lynelle, etc.

Do you know what? I thought I might have gained weight those four days but instead I lost a pound! Now my total loss is 30 lbs. The trouble with that, is it does make one look older. Thanks again for everything.

Love, Elsa

1988-12-?? (December 1988)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Elsa Swanson	To: Friends and Relatives	
From: Batavia, Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
Pages: 1 (typed)	Family news	

Dear Friends and Relatives

This year I made two long distance trips. From February 10th through 17th I was in Chandler, Arizona visiting my daughter, Carla and her husband Rick. They now have a lovely new home with a beautiful swimming pool built into their backyard. We enjoyed summer-like weather, and went to various places including Thompson's arboretum in Mesa, and a horse show. It was fun.

My other trip was to Redwood City, California to attend my niece Evelyn's wedding, August 6th. Evelyn is the daughter of Carl's brother Clarence. It has been 20 years since I was there last. The wedding was lovely, and I enjoyed meeting all the guests. The weather was ideal - such a great relief from our very hot humid weather at home. How fortunate I am to have such good relatives!

It is always enjoyable to participate in the various one day trips planned by the Batavia Park District and the Batavia Senior Club. Now that I'm Vice President of our Senior Club, my duties include helping to plan these trips.

Most every Thursday I pick up my friend Irene Nord Anderson to attend the morning Bible Study class which Pastor Ahlstrand teaches at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Charles.

Dan has been very busy with his illustration work and has had a good year. He bought a new blue Dodge Caravan in November to replace his aging Honda. And he likes it very much.

We were invited to my niece Patty's house for Thanksgiving. Their lovely new home is almost complete.

Gordy and Sally will leave Dec. 12th in their motorhome for Texas to spend Christmas with Sally's sisters. And I've invited Don, Joann, Pat's family, Elaine, and Ruth Lundine to my home for Christmas Eve. It's always fun to watch Pat & Gary's children open their gifts after our meal.

Last May, Dan and I decided to try a prepared meals program called "Diet Carry-Out". It consists of 21 meals totalling 1200 calories. Dan succeeded in losing 30 lbs. for his 20-year high school class reunion last July. And I have lost 51 lbs and plan on losing 30 more. My doctor says this weight loss made my blood pressure go back to normal. He said he may take me off my medication depending on how I do over the holidays.

Mildred is at Geneva Retirement Home. She was happy to have her sister Bertha and husband Art come to visit her from Washington state.

Gordy has been busy all summer and fall helping a friend build a house in North Aurora. Sally keeps busy with part time nursing work and with caring for their grandchildren. They have also travelled to Alaska, North Carolina, and Disney World.

This pretty well covers the 1988 news. So I will close now and join Dan in extending our warmest greetings for a blessed and joyful Christmas. And may you enjoy health and happiness in the New Year.

Elsa & Dan

<b>1991-01-??</b> (January 1991)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Lorraine Carlson	To: The Swansons	
From: Tennessee	To: 218 Hillview Redwood City, California 94062	
Pages: 1	Family news	

Dear Clarence, Betty & Elaine

Thank you for the beautiful centerpiece you sent us. We all enjoyed it. We had a house full for a few days. The little ones have so much fun together. My condition continues to deteriorate But I am thankful I can still be up. So far I have gotten out once a week to get my hair done. And to church. Thanks again - Lorraine.

<b>1991-01-29</b> (29 January 1991)	Post date: 1991-01-29	Postmark: South Suburban
From: Elsa Swanson	To: Clarence, Evelyn, Betty & Elaine	
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Pages: 4 plus envelope	Family news	

Tuesday, Jan. 29, 1991

Dear Clarence, Evelyn, Betty & Elaine,

Thought I would try to write about some of the happenings since Lorraine's death a week ago yesterday along with the enclosed programs & obituary. You most likely will receive more news from some of your other relatives.

The first I heard about it was when Harry called here Monday eve. on the 21st when he was making arrangements for his stay here in Illinois. I gave him Dan's phone number where he lives in St. Charles. We are all sad that she is no longer with us but we are certain that she is now happy to be with the Lord in her heavenly home.

Dan drove his little Mazda Miata into O'Hare airport to pick up his Uncle Harry. He was over an hour late due to a cancellation of his original flight but was able to get another one. Dan decided to take him up the Hancock tower & other places in Chicago which Harry seemed to enjoy. It was necessary for me to attend our Swedish Vasa Lodge that evening because those having January birthdays were on the serving committee. Besides serving our own members we also served the group of installing members from Lockport, Ill, so the meeting was long lasting & we had to clean up afterwards and it was also very cold that night which was Thursday Jan 24th.

On Friday Jan. 25th my step-sister phoned. She is Mildred's daughter Elaine Lockhart. Elaine desired to go to the visitation at the Aurora Grace Lutheran Church but didn't know where it was located so I suggested that she could come here and the 3 of us could go together since I know the way. Dan came later in his little car which was more convenient for him.

There were many friends and relatives at the visitation. Lorraine had arranged her own funeral. She wanted to wear the pretty blue dress with white collar & cuffs that she wore on their 40th wedding anniversary last Easter Sunday. She looked very natural as if she sleeping peacefully and has kept her same neat, trim, youthful appearance. All five of her children were at the visitation & funeral. Ann had her whole family & so did Barbara. David flew in from Colorado by himself & rented a car and of course there was Mary, Paul & Bob. Art, Helen Eileen, her family and Art came on Saturday to the service at Grace Lutheran Church. Art sounded better than he looked. Harry kept close to Art & looked out for him.

The weather had warmed up a little on Saturday and we had lovely sunshine every day. There were many of Bob's & Lorraine's friends attending the 11 o'clock service and as you will notice by the program the service included communion sacrament which was most impressive. As I understand it Mary Carol had decided to give the sermon both in Tennessee and in Aurora instead of the fairly new pastor in Grace Luth. She felt that her mother would have liked that. She gave a beautiful talk even though it wasn't easy to do. I noticed most everyone had tear's rolling down their cheeks. I'm glad I sat in the last row because I couldn't get at my handkerchief in my purse (the zipper broke) so I went out into the hall & got a handkerchief in my coat pocket. I asked Mary if I could have a copy of her sermon so I'm hoping to get that and will send one to you. Seems to me someone said that Mary is going to New Zealand. I suppose it's connected with her church work.

After the service we all went in the procession to the service at the big mausoleum at River Hills Memorial Cemetery in Batavia. Then we returned to Grace Lutheran Church and had a delicious lunch in their fellowship hall. Naturally there was a lot of visiting going on. The Carlson family had been very much involved in many activities of that church.

That Saturday I was invited to my niece Patty's home to celebrate their son Kyle's 8th birthday so I stopped to see them on my way home. Harry had joined the other relatives who were staying at Gen & Everett's home in St. Charles. They truly had a house full including the little children. Gen & Everett to do this for their long time close friends

Lorraine & Bob. They even had me stay at their home for a week after I had a hysterectomy back in 1984. They are most wonderful Christian people.

Gen told me while I was sitting with her Friday that Lorraine had written & sent her a birthday card the day before she died. I understand she could write when Bob lifted her right hand; no wonder Ann remarked that her mom amazed her. Mary brought out many incidents similar to that in her sermon. Yesterday Gen said she had 10 sheets in her washing,

Bob had purchased a beautiful new good sized van so he could take Lorraine to various places during her illness. They tell me she didn't really suffer until the very end. I do believe that their strong faith in God their trials had eased and were able to cope with the dreadful ALS disease.

I invited Harry to attend our 8AM church service here in Batavia. After that we went in my car to Bob's sister Dorothy's home in Plato Center near Elgin where she served everyone breakfast consisting of pancakes, bacon, ham, coffee cakes, fruit & juices etc. She had a lovely home there and there were toys for Ann's & Barb's boys to play with. They are darling children & so good. Some of them went out to ride in a snowmobile including Bob. Bob was not feeling so well Saturday but he managed to get a good rest at Wilson's home & that helped a lot. He has been so used to getting up a lot to turn Lorraine over in different positions. We think its remarkable he was able to keep her home all this time. They did have visiting nurses come. Well you folks had similar experience when Ruth was ill.

This is quite a lengthy letter so I better bring it to an end. Dan drove Harry back to O'Hare yesterday. They left at noon and were going to have lunch together on the way.

There has been quite a lot of snow on the ground and still remains but the streets are all clear but another cold spell is due to arrive & perhaps more snow. I know you would have liked to have been here if it were possible. Hope you are getting along better by now.

Hope you can read this scribbling.

Love & good wishes to all of you, Elsa