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| 1952-09-30 (30 September 1952) | Post date: | Postmark: |
| From: Virginia Swanson | To: Ruth Swanson | |
| From: Arvin, California | To: Redwood City, California | |
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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

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