

1973-12-06 (6 December 1973)	Post date:	Postmark:
From: Elsa Swanson	To: Ruth & family	
From: Illinois	To: Redwood City, California	
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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.