

Tucson Ariz.

Feb. 26, 1971

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Dear Kells:

Received your letter yesterday. Glad to hear the weather is mild & the snow is going down. The last week has been a little colder down here, in the 60° range. We went to the Tucson rodeo yesterday. We saw the parade in the morning, which lasted about 3 hours & was non-mechanized, all horses, bands etc.

Sorry to hear the purap still not working so good. If you take those set screws out and grind a point on them, then take the electric drill and make a seat for them in the shaft they should hold. Wrap a piece of tin around the drill bit so you don't ruin the threads in the gear. In a few days we may start mousing again. May go over to the Organ Pipe for a while and from there west to the coast.

You should get lots of good skiing with all the snow. Did you get the track fixed on your Scorpion? Is the belt just
(over)

Turn or is there also a ~~hook~~ link broken in it? Find out if it can be repaired.

It sounds like you got that truck. If there isn't too much wrong with it, it should be a pretty good buy. I hope college is going good. When are your exams? Will you and Larry be finished about the same time?

Mom is busy making a wooden picture to-day. I cut out some wood and shaped it for ~~her~~ her and have stayed around camp all day.

Monday we drove up to Arizona City to see what the lots were like. It is about 60 miles north of here. It is the place where those ~~see~~ salesmen were selling lots, at that supper we went to in Grande Prairie two years ago. It sure didn't look very attractive. There are innumerable promotion deals like these going on all over Arizona. A couple of locations south of Tucson look the most inviting to me, of the ones we've seen.

A lady from Ontario & I have been sharing ideas on woodwork & crafts. Her husband buys tools for her birthdays & Christmases too & helps her rough things out. She has some

different tools than mine & loaned me a good book on woodwork of all kinds. She's going to take a two-week carving course in Virginia this spring (stylized designs)

I finished that wood picture I started at home & it looks very nice I think. Also made a seed picture of seeds I've found down here, & yesterday finished another wood one which I'll give to Margaret. She thinks they are wonderful. She brags about them to everyone she knows & would be an excellent press agent. She says she isn't a doer - she's an appreciator.

Some people who lived on the Pells Indian Reservation near Ajo, are in the next trailer to us & have invited us over to play crib tonight. They were telling Dad yesterday that when there is a death in the tribe it is always a time for celebration.

They ^{Indians} make a party of digging the grave, making the coffin & afterwards, when the body is laid in it, it sits behind the house & everyone goes & talks to the corpse as though it was still living & they have a lot of feasting.

These people have spent a lot of time in Mexico too & enough people have told us so many nice things about it, that I think Dad is convinced we should go there the next time we come south. I wish we had gotten passports before we came.

The rodeo parade was really long & mostly horses. Paul said that that day at noon, out at the plant where he is working (25 miles out), one of the men remarked, "Hell, Tucson should be full of horse shit by ~~now~~ now." I was surprised

that they didn't have one clean-up in the parade. They don't dress up their horses much here ~~though~~ ^{either}. A lot of them were in their woolly winter coats & looked terrible. They didn't clean their hoofs or shine their equipment much. The only glamorous outfits were from California I think.

Some Indian women from the San Xavier Mission won the overall prize. They were in authentic Indian dress & carried big baskets of red chili peppers, fruit & vegetables in baskets, or ollas, on their heads. They were really good & I'm glad they won.

Dad wants to go back to the rodeo today. This is Mexican day. The performers (Mexican) sat in front of us on Thursday, & the men all had huge wool sombreros on & fancy suits.

Dale Trotter from Crooked Creek

is taking part in the rodeo here
but we don't know which
~~date~~ day. The rodeo lasts four days.
It isn't the big shin-dig that
Calgary has. Just the rodeo
with acts between the various
sections. It's over about 5:00
& that's it for the day. No
midway or side attractions &
nothing at night. They have
an agricultural fair next
month.

Guess I'd better get busy.
Dad started this last night
while I was working on my
picture. Made polo ties for
Paul & Clarke too.

Dad thinks we should be
home by the middle of April
but I told him that might
interfere with your exams.
Tell us when you will be
finished.

If that plant looks diseased it
should be moved away from the others.
If the soil is moldy, dig ^{it} out & throw away.
Glad all is well. Love, Mom & Dad.