

Saigon Vietnam
15 February 1967
Wednesday Evening

Dear Family:

You, you reminded me before I returned that if I did a better job in writing the other members of our family might be able to read my letters. So, I'm trying to write in such a way that you can read without an interpreter or someone holding the letter in a mirror to see if I really wrote it backwards.

I'm sorry that my letter last night wasn't a better account of our trip to Dalat, for yesterday was a full and very interesting day and while I was tired last night it was as much the effect of my trip home as the experiences in Dalat.

In addition to the three institutions we visited, that I mentioned in my letter, I spent about an hour in the "central market, and will be sending home the results of my shopping. I could not resist purchasing two table clothes - they are quite remarkable and should be good for out at the lake. They are ~~made~~ woven by the mountaineers or mountain people and were not expensive. I also purchased a musical instrument that we will experiment with when I get home.

Today has been quite good. The weather has been hot and sunny - and it has been good to spend the day of doing some of the "office business", etc. here.

Tomorrow Howard, Art and Vince go to Hae - for three days. The rest of us will stay here and visit the National Institute of Administration and do some writing. We have similar schedules for Friday. Then Saturday and Sunday Harry and I are scheduled to fly to Phatruay to revisit the Oceanographic Institute and also, if the weather is good, to drive down to Cam Ranh Bay. In addition we will take our swim suits along to try the water at Phatruay - supposed to be "one of the finest beaches in the world".

I remember many times as a boy - along the Washington Coast wondering what it was like on the other side of the Pacific ocean - what the people were like - and if I would ever see it. Now, the thoughts that occupy Chuck's, Phil's, Rich's and the others minds - they too may come back at a later point in your lives, just as mine have and are.

Having been home so recently makes the thoughts and closeness of each one of you very real and returning was much easier than coming over the first time. Hope it has worked that way for you, too.

My love is yours and I am thankful for each one of you - and that we are apart of the same family.

Love,
Dad