



September 14, 1980

Dear Richard,

Well, here goes! I'll try to tell you about our trip.

Dad and I got to the airport at about 8:15AM. Dad dropped me and the luggage at the United terminal and took the car to the long term parking area and took the shuttle bus back to the terminal. We had a sky cap take the luggage and check it in.

The flight took off on time and the weather was fine. I Had a window seat and could see the ground until about the Rockies. Then it got cloudy. The movie was bad! "Rocky 12".

The weather cleared as we approached San Francisco. The entire flight was smooth and Dad said that for my first flight, I was lucky. We landed 15 minutes early at 11:15 PDT.

We picked up our rented car from Hertz, a Ford Fairmont. We went into the city and checked into our motel.

Then ,we started to do the usual tourist bit. We headed for fisherman's wharf. We came to the top of a hill and the view in front of us was beautiful. So, we both took pictures of of the hill and San Francisco Bay including the Island of Alcatraz. We didn't realize it at the time, but we went down the steepest hill which was about at a 45 degree angle. The speed limit was 10 mph and there was a stop sign at the bottom of the hill. We got down to the wharf area, which is a tourist trap, parked and walked to a park area from where we could see the Golden Gate Bridge. It was in fog, partly. Again, we took pictures. The bridge is painted red.

We tried to go up Telegraph Hill, but there were so many cars and they weren't moving, so we turned and went back down the hill.

We wandered around and saw cable cars, the crookedest street, hills, boats, and more hills. We went back to the motel and were really tired, so we ate at the motel diner. We turned off the light at about 8:00PM PDT.

Monday, we came to at 4:30 PDT. We were both wide awake. AT 6:00, we went to the diner for breakfast. After we ate, we went back to our room, and packed. We checked out early. Dad had seen somewhere about a Redwood Forest about 20 miles north of S.F. So, off we went.

We crossed the Golden Gate, went by Sausalito, which is a large houseboat community, and went up and up, in and out of fog. We saw strange trees, which were later identified as Eucalyptus trees.

It was cloudy when we arrived at Muir Woods. The Redwoods are the tallest trees and magnificent. Their leaves look like our Yew bushes, but more graceful. The tallest is over 300 feet. We learned that they don't burn, are impervious to bugs, and disease. We spent about 1½ hours just wandering the paths. Of course Dad got some beautiful pictures.

We headed back to S.F. and decided to check into the Clift Hotel. On our way to the hotel, we stopped at Fisherman's Wharf and bought Tee shirts for Janice and Greg.

The Clift Hotel is very posh! The doorman took our luggage and a bell boy delivered our luggage to our room. The doorman parked the car in a parking garage and whenever we wanted the car, would go get it and bring it to the front of the hotel for us.

We checked in and in the lobby, we met a number of people that I knew from work and they introduced us to others I had talked to, but never met. Pat Marrs, my counterpart in Chicago, and her husband went to lunch with some other people. We met them anyway, and Pat's husband was the only other male spouse besides Dad that was at the meeting.

After lunch, we met the Marrs in front of the hotel and the four of us took off in our car and headed for the ocean. We went to a section where we could see Seal Rocks. At the right time of year, you could see seals on these large rocks. While we were there, the rocks were covered with Pelicans.

We wandered around and Dad and George Marrs got to know each other and decided to have dinner together each evening.

We went back to the hotel, and were informed that the spouses were invited to the cocktail party. We changed our clothes and at 6:00, we went to the 14th floor to the cocktail party. The Chubb employees were told that dinner was being served and we went downstairs at 7:00 for dinner. Our meal was Prime Ribs. After dinner each night, there was an Hospitality Room set up in one of the suites on our floor. Husbands and wives were invited to these.

Dad and George Marrs went to dinner at an English Pub. Dad said that his dinner was delicious. He had liver and onions. The two of them paid a total of \$33.00 for their dinners. (\$16.00 ea.)

We went to breakfast the next day (Tuesday) at 7:00 AM, because I had to report to work at 8:00. I won't bore you with the work details, but I wasn't finished until almost 5, because Pat Marrs, Anita Evans (from Seattle) and I had to prepare our presentation which was scheduled for Thursday AM.

Dad told me that he had ridden a cable car, so after our dinners, we decided to take the cable car to the Wharf.

Dad and George had the idea to go to a French restaurant, but when they got there they found it to be a tiny place in someone's cellar. They decided to try some place else. The next place was cafeteria style and they didn't want that. So they walked around and found a place that showed the menu in the window. The prices didn't look too bad so, they went in. They ordered dinner, only to find that the prices were a la carte. They ended up spending \$33. each. They ate at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel.

Pat and I met Dad and George at the hotel at about 8:30 and left for the wharf by way of cable car. I've never seen anyone work so hard as the cable car operator. He has to use a lot of pure physical strength just to stop the car. It was kind of a wild ride and it was fun.

Pat and I were punchy because of too much Boiler & Machinery talk, so we were acting a little crazy. We went in and out of Tee shirt shops and almost decided to get Tee shirts that said "A NEW ERA IN B&M". Pat "chickened out", so we bought nothing. We ended up at DiMaggio's Bar, had a drink and left. There were too many people waiting for the cable car, so we decided to take a taxi back to the hotel. The taxi driver was a girl (about 25 or so) and during some conversation with her, we discovered that she was from Morristown. Small world! The ride back to the hotel was a bit on the wild side. Because of the hills, and the fact that cross streets are level (something like this) we hit bottom any number of times.

When we got back to the hotel, we found that some of the people, who didn't go out, were slightly smashed. Charlie was one. When I told him about the Tee shirt, he said "thatch a good idea- \$25. or \$50., I'll sign the expense account." The next morning, he didn't think it was such a good idea.

Wednesday morning, we had breakfast a little earlier, because the B & M group had a field trip and the bus was leaving promptly at 8. We went about 40 miles east of S.F. to visit a sugar refinery. The countryside was rolling. Not as many mountains. It looked very dry. It was also quite a bit warmer than S.F.

We got back to the hotel at 12:30. On the way back, we passed the Oakland stadium. I hissed.

While I was involved in business, Dad visited the Maritime Museum and found a couple of Scottish shops. He bought himself a large belt buckle with the Maxwell clan badge on it. He also got Janice a charm for her bracelet of the McLaren shield. In his tours, he bought me a cable car charm (silver) for my bracelet.

Again, I didn't get finished with business until 5:00, so I had very little time to relax. I had decided to skip the cocktail party, but when George called Dad and arranged to go out to dinner at 6:30, I went to the last half of the cocktail party. I had heard that our menu consisted of salmon, I spoke to the man in charge of the meals and told him of my lack of fondness of fish, he asked me how I liked my steak. There were five of us that had steak. It was delicious.

Dad and George went to a French restaurant and had a good dinner for a moderate price. (\$16. each)

When Dad and George got back to the hotel, they found Pat and me in the hospitality room. We had a few drinks and then went down the hall to our room and Dad and I packed the suitcases. I really enjoyed that hotel. At night, they would come into the room, turn down the bed, put a rose bud in a vase on the TV, and leave two candies that said "Sweet Dreams" on the wrapper.

Thursday morning, we had breakfast. Two of the three breakfasts were eaten at a Deli across from the hotel. The other morning, we had breakfast at the hotel. The hotel meal was expensive. (\$1.25 for coffee).

I had a presentation on Thursday and it went well. Our meeting was over promptly at 12 noon. We checked out of the hotel, got into our rented car and headed south. We traveled inland for a while and saw some of the inland views. We got to the coast at Santa Cruz. We stopped and looked at the natural bridges in the water at Natural Bridges State Park.

Then our next planned stop was at Big Sur. It took us longer to get there than it would normally. Dad stopped very often to take pictures and what beautiful pictures he got! As we drove down the coast, one view was more spectacular than the next. The mountains went right down to the water and there are so few beaches that you could count them on one hand.

We reached the Big Sur Lodge at about 4:30. Big Sur is another Redwood forest. It is a camper's paradise. Our room had the basics: a bed, a desk, 3 lamps, a bathroom with shower. There was no telephone, TV, or radio. After the sun went down, Dad and I read magazines. It is magnificent country, and desolate.

Friday morning, we were on our way by 7:00. We had about 60 miles of U turns, S curves, and 10, 15, and 20 MPH curves. The scenery was too breathtaking to describe. Dad and I took many pictures.

We stopped in San Simeon for breakfast. The further south we got, the fewer mountains we saw. We began to see farms and cattle. The mountains are ever present, but more like a backdrop. They don't quite meet the sea.

Several of the pictures that were taken, Dad took while we were moving. He would snap the pictures as I would steer the car.

We arrived at our motel in Pasadena at about 3:30. The motel is on Colorado Blvd, where the Rose parade is held on New Years Day. We made a number of telephone calls. The first was to Dad's cousin Nina. We invited her out to dinner. This was the first time I would meet her. After making arrangements for dinner, Dad called Jim Hildebrand (his college roommate). We agreed to call him on Saturday morning so as to find out what our plans were. Then Dad talked to the Rossins, in San Diego. He was a boyhood friend of Dad's who lived on Garfield Place. We hadn't seen them since we lived in Hazlet.

At about 6, we went to pick up Nina. She has a beautiful condominium a short distance from the Rose Bowl. We went to a nice restaurant, had a

delicious dinner and a nice evening. Nina is a very nice lady and a lot of fun. You would really like her. Before we left her on Friday, she gave Dad and me a beautiful handmade afgan. Our first question was, how do we get it home? Judicious re-packing made it possible. Anyway, before we left her, Nina invited us to have Sunday brunch with her at the Huntington Hotel.

When we got back to the motel, it was late and we were tired.

Saturday morning, we decided to do some touring. We went to the Rose Bowl and took some pictures. Then, we went to Universal City. We called Jim from there. We went on the Tram tour of the studio. We stopped to visit a sound stage and Robert Wagner's dressing room. The sound stage was really interesting. They showed some of the different processes that are used in film making. They showed an inside set, and how they made the Million Dollar Man and the Bionic Woman look so strong. From the tram, we saw how a rickety "old" bridge could fall apart, how ~~the~~ Red Sea parted, Jaws, how McHales Navy was made in a small pond, a house that was on fire but wouldn't burn down, and an arctic avalanche. The tour took about 2½ hours. We spent about 3½ hours at the studio. Instead of souvenirs, we brought back a movie film of the tour.

We went to Jim & Mary Hildebrand's from there. Their home is in Studio City. Their entire back yard is swimming pool. The yard isn't very big, sort of like Calderwoods. They took us for a ride on Muhlhoßland Drive. This road must be 35-40 miles long. We traveled about 15 miles. The road runs along the top of mountains and there is always a view. Again, Dad took pictures. Jim then took us to see his office. At about 5, we headed back to our motel so we could shower and change to go out to dinner with the Hildebrands. We went back to their house and they drove us to Charlie Brown's restaurant in Marina Del Mar. We had a table overlooking the marina and you could see airplanes taking off from LAX.

The dinner and the company were excellent. After dinner, we went back to the Hildebrand's. We spent a bit of time in their den, which is newly decorated. Both Jim and Mary like to go on Safari in Africa. Their den has many animal heads hung on the walls and there is a zebra skin rug on the floor. They have a lovely home but not too big. I still prefer N.J. living to L.A. living because our air is cleaner and we have more room between houses.

It was really good to see Jim again and to meet Mary. She is very down to earth.

We got back to our motel at about midnight.

Sunday morning, we packed for the trip home. With some rearranging, we managed to get the afgan and assorted souvenirs in the bags. Dad and I took a total of 8 rolls of film in the week we were gone.

We checked out of the motel, and picked Nina up at 11:30. The Huntington Hotel has been taken over by Sheraton. It is a beautiful old hotel that is being refurbished. The brunch is reknown. There was fresh fruit, eggs, bacon, ham, home fried potatoes, roast beef, salads, breads and rolls, and desserts. It was served buffet style and you could eat as much as you wanted. We ate our fill, and went back to Nina's for the afternoon.

I forgot to tell you that we called Rob Williams and I talked to him for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour.

At about 5, we headed for the airport. Our flight wasn't until 9:45 but we didn't know where we were going and we had to return a car. We finally found Hertz. We were allowed 700 free miles. We drove a total of 698 miles. The problem was, that we had the car 4 hours over 1 week and had to pay an extra \$40. for the day, plus \$17. for gas. They wouldn't accept my discount card for some reason so the car ended up costing us \$220. Dad was mad. Anyway, we got our boarding passes, had a couple of drinks, dinner, and wandered around the TWA terminal. The plane took off on time. Much of the way, we had to wear our seat belts. The flight was bumpy. The movie was "Final Countdown". We didn't bother with it. I dozed part of the way. We landed in Newark at 6:15AM EDT. We were

home and in bed by 7AM.

The entire trip was exciting and fun and I would do it again. I'm ready to fly anywhere. It was an expensive trip, but well worth it.

Now, for the current news.

Gramps is in the hospital because he has problems with one eye. The doctor originally thought it was a sinus problem. Now, they think it is neurological. Tomorrow, he will undergo neurological tests.

Tuesday, I have a 9AM appointment with my neurologist. I hope he will be able to make a diagnosis and suggest treatment.

The big news of the day is that we had some rain-not enough, but every little bit helps. The resevoirs are at only 25% of capacity.

Well, I have been at this for several hours, and my back aches, so I guess I'll close. I'm sure I've forgotten to tell you some things, but not much.

Take care! our love to Kristi!

We love you! WRITE!

Lots of love,

Mom