

## R. G. Bee

Proun, Utah

February 6, 1955

Dear Ann and James,

A belated thank you for the fidelity of your much enjoyed letters. Also, the delicious stuffed dates sent at Yuletide. The picture of the kiddies was superb and we are proud of our grandchildren. Mother was sufficiently alert when it arrived to be conscious of their being and smiled with satisfaction when holding the photo. Have depended upon the letters sent by Mary to keep you Kansas folk informed of the course of Mother's illness. Our daily record of her illness soon indicated a definite trend. The period between the strokes or spasms created by new pressure areas formed by the breaking down of the arteries became shorter as time went on, and the pattern well indicated what we could expect as her illness continued. Her vital organs all suffered from the initial stroke and especially her throat, making it difficult for her to take enough nourishment (mostly liquid) to sustain her frail body. Her mind as well as her body deteriorated toward the last, so she reacted only through habit behaviour. She talked not at all; lacked coordination to read or recognize people; she alternated between periods of constipation and the opposite, which on the one hand made her toxic and on the other gave little chance for the food to be properly assimilated. Previously to her passing, she was unable to take food or drink--both made her choke and created mucous, which prohibited her normal breathing. Breathing in the last three days was extremely labored and cyanosis was prevalent which gradually enveloped her. We are grateful that she suffered little or at all after the initial stroke, and the end and the beginning came without spasm or pain.

The funeral, as the notice states, was private. There were few very close friends came, such as Dr. C. L. Jones and wife. Callers before the service the previous day and Sunday included Don Daynes and wife, Dr. Clarence Cottam, Dr. Tanner, and Dr. Hayward and his wife--all close friends of James.

The service was in the Culbertson tradition--scriptural passages dealing with immortality and spiritual values--not a single personal remark. Many commented on its unusual beauty. Dr. Carter is a very finished scholar and his readings impressed all. The selections chosen were neither too long or too brief. No music to unduly upset your emotions. A little later I will mail a booklet of those attending, pall bearers, biblical references which will enable you to read the entire service. The dress and slippers were selected by Phyllis and Mary and were in keeping with Mom's style of clothes. The casket, far from being ornate, was plain--of broadcloth with flesh-colored lining--restful. Her corsage was pinned below her neckline. Floral blanket of white cornations and red roses with various other pieces gave comfort.

Close now, with love and kisses to all.

*Dad*