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W. C. Simons
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Collie:

I have just been thinking that this is yours and my anniversary week. I came to Lawrence on the 10th of December and you came on the 14th. I am almost frightened when I think that that was thirty-two years ago. An immense span and a powerful amount of water has gone under the bridge since that time. The world has not treated us as we expected. I recall that you still had hopes of becoming an artist and I had hopes of anything under the sun just so it was big. But while we proposed these things to ourselves, God disposed in a different manner, and I think we should both be thankful for the many blessings we have received.

Looking back over our lives you have had one big advantage over me. You have never lost a child. Oh, I lost so much when sweet little Betty Lee left us. But out here in the busy, inspiring Northwest, where big things are being done all the time, I find new courage coming into my heart and a delicious, refreshing spirit in my veins. I am gathering myself together as I never hoped to do.

This is not really a memorial letter, it is just a reflective one. I think we are both doing better than we ever did in our lives before, and we both ought to be thankful for a lot of things. I am sure we both are.

Our best love to you and your good family.

Very sincerely,

JLB:S