

November 15, 1951

2nd Lt. Dolph C. Simons, Jr., 055013
1st Training Battalion
"B" Barracks, Company "A"
Marine Corps School
Quantico, Virginia

Dear Dolph,

I had the pleasure of having dinner with your family last night, and we were glad to have John with us. He still keeps himself in shape for athletics and performs well when called upon. The middle finger of his left hand had been bruised a bit in practice, but not serious enough to be wrapped up.

Your home is very attractive and I don't believe you have seen it since it was done over. If it should so happen that you and Pam would want a place where you could either be quiet or could receive company, remember there is lots of room at the Cedars and not very many folks there.

Yesterday was the 57th anniversary of my wedding. I remember the date because anniversaries spent without Gertrude, while full of pleasant memories of the past, are also full of grief that she is no longer here. I placed a wonderful blanket of red roses on her grave yesterday.

Everything seems to be running along smoothly, but we could take you on and keep you busy the sooner the better. I was 20 years old when I began business in Lawrence, absolutely without capital and with a family, because mamma, Etoile, Louis and Grayce were all at home. Louis, however, was on his own very shortly after we came to Lawrence. He was generous but from boyhood had kept and spent his own money, although he was very free in doing things for mamma. Of the five children, of which I was one, only Grayce and I survive, but my family has developed to where I have ten grandchildren and two great grandchildren with prospects for more in the near future.