

GLADWYNE, PA.

Boy it sure is time that I got around to getting you fellows and gals up to date as to what has happened and maybe even a little bit of what will be happening in '92.

Now that 1991 is checking out shortly, I can't say that it's been a great year. But it was better than 1990.

My health is better. Mary is hanging in there and I am keeping pace with the paper work and even making some inroads into the post file.

First, let's let all you good people know about Norfolk. Great place! Harvey Faterson sure knows how to have a cocktail party for 46 people. Just Kriegies and wives. The bus driver abstained which pleased all of us. There was enough to go around tho. The Kommittee with the help of the Holiday Inn Staff and Marjorie Phillips Tours (and her husband) sheltered our group around Norfolk in great shape. Saw more darn ships of the U.S. Navy than ever before, and I live in a town with a great Naval Base.

The Officers' Club was superb. Looked like a hotel probably able to hold about 1,500 to 2,000 persons at one time. Very nicely appointed too! The Navy sure does things rite in certain areas.

If they had arranged the ship tour the way they built the officers club we would have had a really grand afternoon. I had it by the grapevine that they were planning to bring in the Army to arrange all future tours. Don't look for this to happen in January '92 (poor humor)

All in all it was a fine time for 135 persons both new to our reunions and the regulars or oldtimers.

From the wine and cheese complimentary party on Thursday evening to the terrific Buffet Breakfast on Sunday morning, the air was always filled with chatter as only Kriegies know how to do it.

The hospitality "Nations Room" proved to be a real popular spot. Great Room on the 5th floor with lots of windows for a great view.

We had great staffing at the registration desk and elsewhere. Thanks goes to:

- Maurice Chevalier
- Bob Christiansen
- Curtis Jones and, of course, our Moneyman Wilbur Sharpe.

The spouses of all of the above helping in many ways. List of registrants is also enclosed.

Our next one is in 1992 in Colorado Springs under the General Chairmanship of Bill Korber. Then in 1993 we will be in Louisville Kentucky where Bill Cory will be the General Chairman. This is a change from our initial announcement at Norfolk.

Great Line-up!

Enough said -- Editor.

LEAVENSWORTH, KS.

A very lovely and lengthy letter from Mrs. Peter (Virginia) Mirakian saying she couldn't join us at the reunion. I believe his obituary was published about a year ago (December 27, 1990) when he passed away. Peter and George Juskalian were often seen together in the compound as well as on the march. She also thanked George for all that he did for Peter when he arrived at Camp and also sent her love to him.

Thank you indeed, Virginia. We did have a nice, joyful reunion.

At night, Virginia writes that Peter often remarked how a lighted house always looked as though the people in it were always so cozy and warm as opposed to his cold and hungry days as a P.O.W.

Thanks again Virginia for these fine thoughts of Peter's. Your attendance at one of our reunions would be a real joy. Can't you find the time to join us?

LOUISVILLE, KY

Sorry your card was a little late in arriving as I left for Norfolk a whole week ahead of time. It surely was nice that you were thinking of us and I know you would have enjoyed it. Congratulations on the new granddaughter. Dick would have enjoyed her. Try for next year at Colorado Springs. It will be a great place! (Mrs. Richard Englehart)

LAS VEGAS, NV

Alan (Dunbar) and his wife Lilo. What a shame a good Army man such as you had to miss out on not seeing such a great Navy base. You would have loved it.

Hope by now Lilo's father has improved and you have put the dates for next year's reunion on your reservation list and that we can see you at that time.

This will be different from Norfolk because we will be isolated and hemmed in with a limited number of activities.

I'M sure though that Bill Korber will keep us busy! Right, Bill?

See you soon, Alan.

NORFOLK, VA

above average note of

appreciation from the contact persons at the Holiday Inn, Suzanne Green and Liz Tinkham who were our coordinators with the Holiday Inn Staff. It seemed to me that the staff and operating people were most cooperative in trying to please us.

We did have a great time according to the letters I have received from several Kriegies.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Clarence Meltesen writes about trying to find out about our knowledge of the whereabouts of a black officer from Hammelburg. Anybody out there know, please advise Clarence Meltesen at

810 Gonzalez Dr., #410

San Francisco, CA 80710

I hope you will and all of us keep in mind when pressing for release of MIA(?) and P.O.W. that the Oriental "thinking" would largely not acknowledge either of the above because in face of all the negative releases right now there is no way to come with any "face saving" by such acknowledgement now. This may seem a small point to us but not to an Oriental.

We were sorry you missed Norfolk, but understand that Ranger Bns. take precedent. Hope you are planning to take ours in at Colorado Springs.

VIDALIA, GA

The question of what happened to the black officer was raised with Clarence by Bill Worthen who spoke with him on several occasions in Hammelburg. He also ascertained that this same officer was wounded (loss of leg?) in the subsequent attempt of Baum's unit to get back to the front lines.

Bill and Clarence are trying to obtain more definite information about this individual.

As stated previously, any knowledge your part should be forwarded to Clarence.

Thanks for your help Bill and sure hope you can make it to Colorado Springs.

WILMETTE, IL.

I am sure you will all enjoy the one

page resume of our Norfolk reunion by Jim Bickers. I had asked Emmy Lou to do it but she passed the job on to Jim. Thanks much to you both. It's Great! and I love it!

Sure looking forward to seeing you both again in Colorado. Thanks also Jim for the nice contribution to the PF.

GLADWYNE, PA

While I'm on the subject of thanks, a great big thanks to each of the following as well as others who I may have missed for the overwhelming financial support for the PF at the Reunion. The individuals were:

Joseph Ainsworth
Edward Batte
James Cupit
Bob Eckman
Leonard Feldman
Jerome Hatch
Duane Kennedy
Joseph Seringer
James Sherman
Gardner Simes
Sydney Thal
Irving Yarock

Thanks again fellows for your strong support of the PF.

GRAND JUNCTION, CO.

I sincerely appreciate your thanks for the great work the Kommittee did at the Reunion. Wilbur is still winding up the monetary details and did a stellar job as mentioned before. Tom and Sue Lawson really had a great time.

They also mentioned Henry Soderbergs' letters and comments he made and you'll be hearing more about that later.

Will be looking forward to reviewing the video. Thanks for the picture of Mary at the Patterson's. Best to you both, and see you next year.

BELLEROSE VILLAGE, N.Y.

The enclosed "Trip to Poland" brochure was submitted by Lorraine Glendinning and make sure you all sign up and register for this outstanding tour. We all should have a great time! Thanks, Lorraine. Great fun !

Well, I threw away the envelope and received a check but I still don't know who "MAW" is, anyway thanks for the nice contribution to the PF. Your check does not have your nickname on it.

Thanks also for the kudos from you and your wife, Faye. Look forward to saying hello in Colorado.

LEXINGTON, KY

Received a brief note from Helen Watt wife of Robert Watt who is suffering from Parkinson's disease. At the present, Bob is a complete invalid and unable to move about or talk and remains in a nursing home.

All of our sympathies are with you and thanks for the note about Bob. We are sure glad that you let us know how he is doing.

CENTREVILLE, VA

Nice brief note from George Juskalian with a photo taken by Lucille at the Reunion. Thanks much Lucille. A very distinguished looking small group. Wilbur Sharpe Irving Yarock, J.F.S., George Juskalian, Don Waful, Ted Pawloski. It's a wonder the camera didn't have a bad reaction.

Thanks, George, for the piece about the Reunion. Wilbur and all the rest of them did a great job. Great to see you after having missed three of them.

SPOKANE, WA

All the way from the other coast comes an envelope from Hermann Littman with many photos of the Reunion. Those in the pictures will be receiving a copy in the next few weeks as soon as I can figure who they are Thanks Herman. A very thoughtful gesture. Glad you were able to do it right away. This makes my job easier. Still have two from '88 whom I do not know. Find out one of these days. Thanks for your contribution to the PF. With the postage rates these days the Fund can really use it. Good to see you and Lucille.

See you in Colorado Springs.

KERRVILLE, TX

When I returned from Norfolk, I ordered a Montage of Liberation of Moosburg by Artist Barron Storey. Turned out to be very nice and hope to have it framed and hung on the wall in my basement area.

-- Editor

MIAMI BEACH, FL -- SAN DIEGO, CA

This doesn't very often happen but the reason for it is because of the strong bond that runs in all of us.

Syd Thal while in California while visiting his daughter decided to call the wife of one of our recent departed members, William "Bill" Duckworth. Bill passed away late in 1990. His wife Grace still lives in San Diego and Syd had a long talk with her on the phone.

Her address is:

Mrs. Grace Duckworth
5131 Marlboro Dr.
San Diego, CA 92116.

I have received from her a small pamphlet of Bill's poems which I plan to publish from time to time. She is also looking for a publisher to publish a book that Bill wrote. Perhaps Clarence Meltesen may be of help in this area. He lives in San Francisco. Phone: 1-415-584-0389.

The enclosed poem by Bill was written in March 1990 after it was diagnosed that he had a rare neurological disorder which left him with speech impairment and a useless left side.

I also have his brief biography and will print it in future issues, 2 pages.

We indeed welcome Grace Duckworth and hope she will be able to make it to our reunions. Please feel free to contact me or others thru me or Syd and we will be glad to help to the best of our abilities.

KAUFMANN, TX

A very fine letter from Roy and Helen Chappell mailed before they had even left Norfolk on what a wonderful time they had at the reunion. Thanks much Roy and Helen. Just glad you enjoyed it.

CLARINDA, IA -- BEDFORD, IA

This letter was from Joy Higgins Hartstock. Larry Higgins passed away October 30, 1991. He went to Hospital on October 8 for the final bout with cancer. His family was with him

the day before he passed away. Joy requests that any of you fellows that knew Larry, share any particular knowledge that you had about Larry with them. So get your pen and paper out and your memory clicking with those stories that Larry used to tell at the reunions.

It was Roy and Helen Chappell's birthday card to Larry with a telephone number that permitted Joy to make contact with us. Joy is Larry's youngest living child. Really no child with 3 children of her own. Thanks much Joy for all the info on Larry.

DARLINGTON, S.C.

Lynne Hunsaker sent me the John Shinn death notice. I had already heard from Billy Bingham that John had finally succumbed to his disease. John was 81. Also George Durgin sent Johnnie Shinn's name in this letter.

SACRAMENTO, CA

George Durgin wrote me a very fine letter and commending everyone of the Kommittee in his lead off sentence, another Great Oflag 64 Reunion. That was my reaction too. It was great! I think the one place that really helped was the Hospitality Room on the 5th Floor. Bright, airy, yet small enough to get a closeness in the group and the constant hub-bub of talking giving a wonderful background.

Sure glad that Harris Machus enjoyed his first, along with his wife Elaine. Sure am looking forward to seeing you both in Colorado Springs.

REUNION

COLORADO SPRINGS
COLORADO

OCTOBER 8,9,10,11, 1992.

HAPPY AND HEALTHY HOLIDAYS

Editor -- John F. Slack

SPECIAL MEMO

I received letters from the following Kriegies prior to our Reunion indicating they could not attend for a multiple of reasons.

I wanted you to know that they sent me a letter and I want them to know that I received them. Many of these were read at Sat. P.M. Meeting.

Bill Cory	Louisville, KY	He got there and had a ball
Billy Bingham	England, ARK.	Got his cotton in! Card from Europe
Richard Froegger	Milwaukee, WI	Other info.
Anne Rudel	Jamesville, N.Y.	
W.K. & Katy Jones	Knoxville, TN	Contribution, thanks much.
Jim Denman	Mystic, MA	Couldn't make it!
Carl Clawson	Newport Beach, CA	Thanks for contribution
Ormond Hessler	Charlotte, N.C.	Change of address and a nice contribution
Lorraine Glendinning	Bellerose Village, N.Y.	Regrets! Thanks for contribution.
Herb Harris	Pinehurst, N.C.	He made it.
Bob Bonomi	Memphis, TN	Regrets and letter
Sid Waldman	ok	Thanks for contribution
Harvey D. Patterson	Williamsburg, VA	He didn't make it, but almost 50 of us made his place! WOW!
Alan Dunbar	Las Vegas, NV	Thanks for the contribution
Jim Bickers	Willmette, IL	Other info.
Roy Ihrle	Lincoln, Neb.	Made it. Thanks for the contribution.
Vinton Thomas	Jackson, MS	

NORFOLK REVISITED

Rudy is gone! That sad fact did not really hit me until we, Oflag 64ers, gathered in Norfolk VA for the 1991 Reunion. Rudy was William E. Rudel, 1st Lieut. "D" Battery, 17th FA on February 15, 1943 when he became a POW. Rudy was my friend who knew and accepted me, and I knew and accepted him. Rudy marched to his own drummer, and in doing so alienated many around him; so much so, that he visited with many ex-P'sOW after the war to apologize for his "style" while a guest of the Third Reich. I begged him not to do that, mainly because many of us would have had to do the same thing. I used to tell people who asked about our "vacation" in Deutschland that we sewed Rudy into his winter underwear in October, and cut him out in May; he just smiled sweetly.

This is not about Rudy; it's about all of us who were in Oflag 64 from June 1943 until January 1945 at various periods of time. It's about those of us who remain, and the ranks are thinning. There is no recruiting program to replace the missing; when we are gone. we are gone. This not an observance of gloom; it is one of joy that so many of us came from all over the Country to declare our fellowship.

It's about a group of young men who joined a very exclusive "club", and were thrown together in a very tense, and close environment. Stress was a fact of life; those wonderful people who gave us "Silent Night" also gave us a level of barbarity seldom seen before, and were unpredictable. A fact we never forgot.

It wasn't "Hogan's Heros"; it was little food, unheated barracks, and yards of boredom, along with the uncertainty of when we would or could go home.

In spite of it all we had spirit. We had a library, a greenhouse, a theater, a daily "news sheet" translation of the German papers, The Oflag Item, sports, classes of all kinds, a tailor shop, a shoe repair shop, an escape committee, an orchestra, and card games-miles of card games. Those are a few of the things that made a sorry situation a little better.

No, this is not about sadness; it's about joy. And there are others who came to celebrate; our mates. They represent a dimension of our lives that makes it all worth while. Some of them have left us, and for that we mourn. They suffered in their own way, and, too, had "spirit".

In October 1991, the American Officers who were in Oflag 64 at one time, or another, convened to celebrate, and I am proud to be one of them. In closing I quote the young sailor who was our tour guide at the Naval Base, "My grandfather was in World War 11, and I'm only 22."

My answer, "My grandfather was in the Civil War, and I'm only 72."

We are a helluva bunch of geriatrics!!!!

Jim Bickers October, 1991.

ATTENDEES AT NORFOLK REUNION

OCTOBER 10, 11, 12, 13, 1991

Joe & Ruth Ainsworth
James & Winifred Ball
James & Peggy Bancker
Ed & Elizabeth Batte
Mary Jane Barkovic

Joseph & Mary Barrett
Jim & Emmy Lou Bickers
O.L. & Jean Bradford
George & Betty Britto
Arthur & Vivian Bryant

Al Casner
Al & Dorothy Cecil
Roger & Ruby Cannon
Roy & Helen Chappel
Robert Cheatan

Marvin & Faye Chevalier
Robert & Jean Christensen
Tony & Rose Cipriani
William & Caroline Cory
John & Dorothy Cramer

James & Mary Cupit
Vincent & Mary DiFrancesco
J. Frank Diggs
George & Virginia Durgin
Charles Eberle

Robert & Lillie Eckman
Lester & Edith Edsall
Leonard Feldman
Joe & Sylvia Friedman
Thurston Garrett

Herb & Ethelene Garris
Donald Graul
William & Duna Harrell
Jerome Hatch
Walter & Gloria Heisler

George & Betty Herr
H. Randolph & Clementi Holder
Verris Hubbell
LeRoy & Leilabeth Ihrie
Curtis & Norma Jones

George & Lucine Juskalian
Martin Kaiser
Carl & Rita Kasper
Duane & Mildred Kennedy
William & Evelyn Korber

Thomas & Betty Lawson
Royal & Harriett Lee
Herman & Lucille Littman
Lewis & Janet Lowe
Jim & Nam Macarevey

Jim & Wife Macarevey, Jr.
Harris & Elaine Machus
Sidney Miller
Alfred Moss
Bob & Evelyn Oshlo

Ted & Adele Pawloski
Ted & Barbara Rinehart
Louis & Elizabeth Salerno
Henry & Joan Schulte
Joe & Joanne Hagan Seringer

Wilbur & Mary Sharpe
Matt & Bel Smith
James & Doris Shoaf
Jim Sherman
Gardner Simes

John & Mary Slack
Henry Soderberg
Sidney Thal
Vinton Thompson
Len & Evelyn Vaden

Jack Van Vliet
Don & Cassie Waful
Leonard & Florence Warren
Irving Yarock
Donna Warriner

A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR
To A & L
Mary & John



TRIP TO POLAND

12 days - 4 nights
FEB. 30 MARCH 5

ITINERARY

- 1st Day** Leaves Pittsburgh International Airport 4:35 am. All passengers travel First Class aboard Air Poland's Uni-engine Jumbo Jet
- 2nd Day** In Air
- 3rd Day** In Air
- 4th Day** In Air
- 5th Day** Arrive Warsaw 9:00 pm and on to Warsaw Hilton Basement Annex for Deluxe Picnic Lunch
- 6th Day** After breakfast, complete city tour of Warsaw, 9:30 - 9:40 am. Free Time for shopping followed by a fabulous 7-course meal - 1 polish sausage and a 6 pack
- 7th Day** Tour the countryside in the comfort of a rebuilt Polish Army Tank. Some continue on by jeep to Bangladesh (Optional)
- 8th Day** Back in Warsaw for a tour of the University of Poland - both buildings! Everyone will get to see the book in the Health Science Library
- 9th Day** Board your waiting Jumbo Jet to USA. Only six quick stops (2 for fuel and 4 for directions)
- 10th Day** In Air
- 11th Day** In Air
- 12th Day** Arrive Pittsburgh between 10:00 am and Midnight, depending on weather conditions and fuel leakage

ONLY
\$49.50 Per Couple

Includes All: TRANSPORTATION, MEALS, TOURS, TRANSFERS, HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS, FIRST AID, AND PARACHUTES (open on impact).
Don't Delay... Reservations must be received no later than departure time!

My wife sometimes gazes sadly
At me, knowing how pissed and
Depressed I feel about the battle
Between staffs and
Bureaucracies; constant
Skirmishes as only a "pettiness"
Seems, or as the disgraceful
(It seems to me) tug of war between
Nurse "Mid City Center" and
Policy makers or "little
Group of serious thinkers".

I never hear what my disease
Is called. Only that some day I'll
Wake up dead.

So they call it "ANOMALY";
But both my wife and I
Would feel most self conscious
If an invitation came reading;
"The Anomalies are cordially invited" etc.

Bill
Bill died peacefully, at home, on December 4th, 1990.

12653 King Oaks
San Antonio, Texas 78233
September 14, 1991

Dear John:

In case you missed it, the following appeared in the TAPS section of the August 1991 issue of The T-Patcher News Letter:

HAROLD D. CRAFT, age 82 of Basking Ridge, NJ, the war time CO of Co. K, 143rd Inf. (captured September 13, 1943 at Altavilla) died June 10, 1991 from a blood clot that formed in a lung. He was receiving radiation treatment for a brain tumor discovered around the first of the year. Later a small blood clot was discovered in a lung and reduced. A second and larger blood clot formed and proved to be fatal.

An obituary was forwarded by his wife, Mavena (known as "Pat"), to Richard Reno in Dallas who phoned the information to the Editor. A story on Harold was printed on page 11 of the August 1990 T-Patcher News Letter.

(512) 654-9180

C. A. Williamson
C. A. WILLIAMSON

In Memory of
LAURENCE BYRON HIGGINS

Born
October 23, 1911, at Clarinda, Iowa
Entered Into Rest
October 30, 1991, at Lincoln, Nebraska
Services From
Walker-Merrick Funeral Home
Clarinda, Iowa
1:00 p.m., Saturday, November 2, 1991
Rev. John Clark, Officiating
Grace Perry, Organist

Honorary Bearers

Joe Updike
Elbert Cline
Mernie Hays

Roger Long
Herb Myers
Bob Werts

Casket Bearers

Milan Shaw
Bob Webb
Alan Schenck

Merl Eberly
Jason Bridie
Noel Bogdanski

Final Resting Place
Clarinda Cemetery, Clarinda, Iowa

Military Services At The Graveside

*The top 4 guys are
from dad's Anti-tank
group. The rest
of the guys are
friends from
baseball.*



**Laurence Byron
Higgins**

Laurence Higgins, 80, of Clarinda died Wednesday, October 30, 1991 at the Veterans Hospital in Lincoln, NE where he had been a patient since October 8.

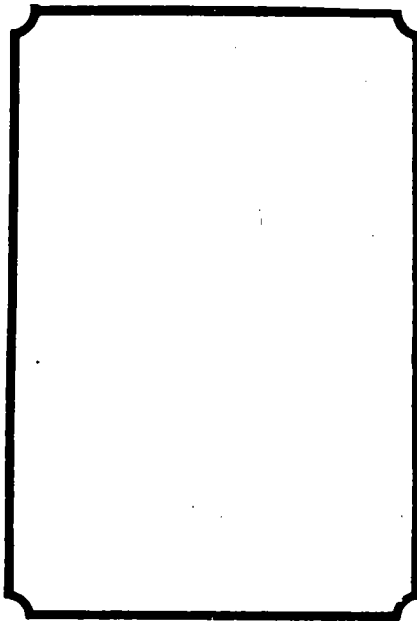
He was born October 23, 1911 in Clarinda. His parents were Henry and Bertha (Mascall) Higgins. He was united in marriage to Alice Manson on April 22, 1946 in Troy, KS. Laurence had served in the Army from 1941 to 1946 and was a P.O.W. during this time.

Survivors include four children, Mrs. Richard (Amy Lynn) Levin of Oberlin, OH; Mrs. Jerry (Laura Anne) Stephens of Marshalltown; Andrew Henry Higgins of Salinas, CA; and Mrs. Richard (Marilyn Joy) Hartstack of Bedford. There are nine grandchildren, two sisters, Alma Harrell of Clarinda and Irmal Hamm of Decatur, IL.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife in 1980, one brother and two sisters.

Services will be held Saturday, November 2, at the Walker-Merrick Funeral Home at 1:00 p.m. with burial in the Clarinda Cemetery. There is open visitation. Memorials may be directed to the Clarinda A's Baseball Program.

Bill Duckworth



May 31, 1917 ~ Dec. 4, 1990



IN MEMORIUM



Bill didn't want us to have a somber funeral for him. He asked that we just get together and talk about all the good times we had had together;---listen to some music by Vivaldi and Georgia Kelly;---read poetry, and remember how much he loved us all. He wanted us to have some good food, too, in his memory.

Throughout his life he was a seeker after the "enlightenment":-- the ultimate understanding of what life and death are all about.

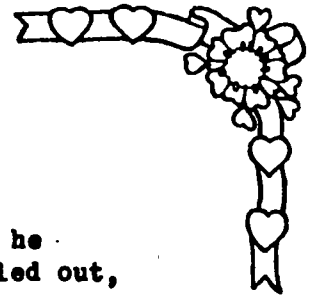
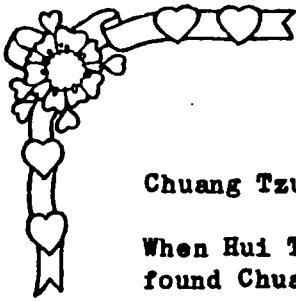
He wanted to be remembered as the happy person he was. In the morning he woke up singing. He was always the center of conversation with his friends and family. He hugged people a lot. Every Christmas he gave his wife a poem about what their life together had meant to him during the past year.

In his letter of instructions to her, entitled "Some requests when I translate to the next dimension", he said, "As soon as possible, beloved, get rid of all of my stuff. Don't let it hang around. The symbols are not the person. Symbols or not, I am still with you."



"All goes onward and outward,
Nothing collapses
And to die is different from
What anyone supposes
And luckier. "

--Walt Whitman



CHUANG TZU

Chuang Tzu's wife died.

When Hui Tzu went to convey his condolences, he found Chuang Tzu sitting with his legs sprawled out, pounding on a tub and singing.

Hui Tzu said, "You lived with her, she brought up your children and grew old. It should be enough simply not to weep at her death...But pounding on a tub and singing...well...this is going too far."

Chuang Tzu said, "You're wrong. When she first died, do you think I didn't grieve like anyone else? But then I looked back to her beginning and the time before she was born. Not only the time before she was born, but the time before she had a body... Not only the time before she had a body, but the time before she had a spirit... In the midst of the jumble of wonder and mystery, a change took place, and then she did have a spirit. Another change took place and she had a body. Another change and she was born.

"Now there's been another change and she's dead.

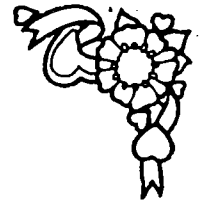
"It's just like the progression of the four seasons: spring, summer, autumn, winter.

"Now she's going to lie down peacefully in a vast room.

"If I were to follow after her, bawling and sobbing, it would show that I do not understand anything about fate.

"So I stopped."

"CHUANG TSU" was Bill's favorite story about death.



TO THOSE I LOVE

If I should ever leave you
whom I love
To go along the Silent Way,
grieve not,
Nor speak of me with tears,
but laugh and talk
Of me as if I were
beside you there.
(I'd come---I'd come,
could I but find a way!
But would not tears and grief
be barriers?)
And when you hear a song
or see a bird
I loved, please do not let
the thought of me
Be sad...For I am
loving you just as
I always have...
You were so good to me!
There are so many things
I wanted still
To do-- so many things
to say to you...
Remember that I
did not fear...It was
Just leaving you
that was so hard to face...
We cannot see Beyond...
But this I know:
I loved you so---'twas heaven
here with you!

Isla Paschal Richardson.

