

June 10 (Wed) 1964
716 7/8th St
East St Louis Illinois
62203

My Dear Friend Jack Ruby:

Excuse me for writing again but I saw this birthday card which I felt sure would please you and so here it is. I had a grown cat just like this while John Marquis was alive. She was like a dog when it came to trotting along beside us when I walked to the bus with John when he left to go out on his freight train run to Evansville Ind.

My goodness, one thing for sure, when you are fed again (looks like it may be soon) everytime you see a friendly cat you will, no doubt think of the name Vivienne Marquis.

It is so gentle for you having brothers and sisters. I never had any brothers nor sisters nor children. I have no close friends and relatives except you (I hope I haven't lost your friendship) & Mama. She was born 27 June 884. Sure thankful she is yet living. I do have two aunts miles away (Tennessee, + Chicago) but I am not fond of them. Papa + mama had been my world since 1941 when I lost John Marquis. So I was extremely sad at losing Papa 18 June 1962 (when he was 88 yrs 8 1/2, + 16 days). His funeral home near papa'sasket my "cool" aunts + others laughed + talked. I didn't feel like talking so I sat away from them + merely shook my head when they "ordered" me to take a chair closer to them. I felt I would burst out crying any moment as I sat staring at papa's face + hisasket + as I thought their gay chatter out of place I left and went to the Ladies Lounge down the hall. I no longer was alone when I gave way to my heartbreak + was lost in a flood of tears. I was alone - I was hurting none of the others - when suddenly those two severe aunts like a couple comets burst in + scolded me relentlessly for giving way to crying. They threw a lot of "be brave" talk at me - when all I wanted was just love.