

4406 Holland  
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September 28, 1970

TO ALL OUR CONCERNED FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

As most of you know, we have had many problems with our youngest son, James Lee, since the first of this year. He was forced to drop out of college in February because of an illness and when he did not go back in the summer, he was drafted. He left for Fort Ord, California, September 17th, two days before his 20th birthday.

Jimmy has been calling us almost every day. We had never known he could be so homesick. He called us Saturday night and said he was ill. We thought he was just getting more homesick and tried to cheer him up, telling him he would be fine. Then yesterday afternoon, we received a call from Fort Ord. He is in the hospital and it sounds like meningitis. They haven't diagnosed it definitely yet, but there is an epidemic of meningitis at the camp and he has all the symptoms... We will probably fly out there to see about him Friday, if not before.

Buck and I have just been so lax in keeping up our correspondence since Jimmy has been ill that I am taking this means of informing all of you that we think of you and love you but have had so much on our minds that we have not shown it very well...

Dearest Sylvia -

I'm just dropping  
this little "misleading  
epistle" in the mail to you to bring you up-to-date on the latest traumas of the Ferrells. The second paragraph is accurate. I'll let you know what happens. He was actually enjoying basic training even though terribly home sick.

Love  
Mary

P.S. Do not answer this! I know how busy you are. Just "hold a good thought for me" occasionally -