

Dear Shirley and Sam,

12/21/74

Lil's face lit up as it doesn't very often when she got to your card in today's heavy mail. We are both so glad to hear from you!

I don't have to tell you of whom we have been thinking recently when I add that Lil has just finished updating the mailing list! Or how wonderful a gesture that whole month was. And how much more than a gesture all that work was.

We think of you, too. Especially when the river gets high. I wondered if the last flood took your ponds and your catfish. (Did I eat any of them in Memphis?)

Because you don't know Jim Heear, I think you should know that he borrowed the money from the bank to pay the printer when once again those of wealth had their mouths open and their pockets shut, with hands jammed in them to be sure.

This is one reason why there are no freebees. We decided that the few my last commercial contract provided would be the limit and that if either of us gives any over that he has to pay. Lil has set up separate books so that there will be no problem with an audit if there is one. We are even keeping the postage separate.

I'm glad Mary told you about the book. You'll probably get a notice anyway because the students who are labelling and stuffing are 50 miles away. I'm sorry that there hasn't been a single order from Dallas.

For the first time there was an extensive and a very good press. No snide cracks of which I've heard and today marks a month. I guess the St. Louis papers didn't carry any of the three syndicated stories, Post, AP and UPI.

Back to the rest of the mail.

Our love,