

Mrs Esther Johnson → Jay Haddon
304 W 39th St
Sand Springs, OK 74063

Tues. 3/5/99

11:00 A.M.

Dear Allene, Jay, & All:

The sun is shining! I am wrestling with old "Arthur Itis," but feel better than I did yesterday. I am breathing more easily & that sure helps. I put the trash out & that North wind feels like it came from snow - saw some pictures on CNN & it did ☹️ I am real tired, but it's nearing time for the "Nutrition Driver" to bring lunch & I thought I'd "rest 'n Write" till she does.

I always put "yesterday's" "tray" on a big tray (2 paper towels on it) & meet her at the door. Many days I have to get up, walk - or stand - until I can hold the tray & wait, but there aren't many times when I can't. She is supposed to check on "We, the people" she delivers to, & I'm sure a lot of the people can't get up so I try not to slow her down. I'm getting tired of their food! ☹️ but know it has $\frac{1}{3}$ of the day's nutritional needs; so far I've "made" me eat most of it ☹️.

If I feel as good as I have this morning, I plan to make a meatloaf & pan of cornbread - will eat some turnip greens, $\frac{1}{2}$ baked sweet potato & a slice of meatloaf & cornbread. I'll slice & freeze the rest. I have a small beef roast (sliced) in the freezer that I cooked 2 or 3 weeks ago. Chicken breasts on rice (cooked ^{rice} with mushroom soup - onion - garlic & celery.) I use bouillon cubes for the liquid - so I always have something "easy to fix" for supper & weekends. I don't always shop - when I don't feel up to it, I give one of the girls my list (over the phone) & write them a check when they get here. I don't like "bought" soup or stew, so I make a pot full & freeze that, too - I really don't need "meals on wheels" but Sherry "yells" when I say ~~so~~ ^{that}

she thinks it's good that someone checks on me every day. I got tired of her doing that - last week I told her she was as domineering as Grandma + Bob put together! She said "I consider that a compliment!" I told her it wasn't meant to be a compliment - + I didn't need a boss; + wasn't going to put up with it! She calls me 2 or 3 times a day - Kandy does, too, but ~~she~~^{Kandy} doesn't get bossy (right now ③). I have friends who call_{also} - so I am about ready to stop the lunches. All that woman could do would be report to her supervisor - they can't give you medicine or touch you (unless it is CPR). The only thing, she brings a half pint of 2% milk every day + that was the only thing I ran out of - but I keep powdered milk + Milnot - frozen egg substitute. (Have learned to "avoid" emergencies[→]).

Wed, 3/10/99

I'm so glad you called, Allene - have been concerned about J.W., especially. I know how hard it is on the family to deal with illness we can't control - + how hard to watch the ones you love suffer - but I always know in my heart that God still answers prayer! + He knows all the "whys + wherefores". I do NOT believe He punishes us, but I do believe He knows how much we can stand - and what each "trial" (test?) is going to bring about. I think of Andre' Crouch's song "Through It All" + my "Comfort" song is "Living By Faith" - I guess my "most quoted" (to myself) Bible verse is Romans 8:28 - then^{the} one you quoted to me, Romans 10:9. I know the Drs. told me in 1972 that Bob could go any minute + the longest anyone had lived with the illness he had was 11 years - yet he worked till Nov. 1976 before his breakdown + ^{lived} till Dec. 21, 1997 - Drs. don't always

know - they "guess-timate" is what Dr. Williams told me when I was 25, + "average" the statistics, but God doesn't operate on human knowledge, nor statistics. He knows the end, from the beginning - + says even "before you call, I will answer." He is absolutely able to heal J.W.! and will use everything He allows to ~~happen~~^{happen}, for our good or His glory (or both!) and "our" encompasses each of His children and the ones they pray for.

Have you ever heard Del Way? I really enjoy his sermons and his singing - + his little wife, Cindy, is a real blessing. He pastors a church at Kerrville, Texas - says he isn't a singer who is a pastor, but a pastor who is a singer. I wanted one of his tapes + Bob drove to Claremore to buy it, in early 1997. Bob always listened to a gospel program (radio) on Sunday morning - and one of the sponsors is a Christian book + music store at

Claremore. I had told him + the girls I wanted that particular tape - they (girls) couldn't find it in Tulsa. He must have called that store + asked if they had it, or heard it played on Sun. morning - Anyway, I was watching ^{Del + Cindy} them this morning (+ enjoying them). ~~It's~~ His program is called "By The Way" + is on TBN. He reminds me of J.W. - always has - though Del is gaining weight now! I'm beginning to think his hair was bleached (or "high lighted" ? whatever it is Sherry has done to her hair!) but "whatever", it used to be the color of J.W.'s. I don't even know where Kerrville is - but if I could travel, I'd like to go there some time!

I got a letter from Patty last week. Clyde has been sick but is better - has emphysema + Angina now, ^{has been} diabetic since

1997, or was it 1998? I'm not sure - but seems like he was past 90 - & he will be 92 ^{next} ~~next~~ October. I used to call him "the little Missouri pine knot"! and told him it was all that milk he drank that made him so healthy. I think he drank a half gallon (or more) every day - I can't stand to drink milk, so I remember being a little ~~scared~~ ^{AWed} because he loved it! (I can still smell that warm milk, at milking time, when I try to drink it!) I cook with it; eat cereal with it - & I eat yogurt, cottage cheese, or cheddar cheese. In the last few years, have found out I can tolerate "lactose-free" more than regular milk, though. I don't even like butter.

I am sorry Alfred is so ill - & I'm very sure he appreciates your visits. Larry didn't want anyone to see him those last weeks, but Jack wanted to see everyone he could - had Betty bring him over here after he had to lie in the back seat of the car & go to bed while he was here. But Larry couldn't swallow, or talk, the final 5 weeks & Jack could, till the end. I still believe mental stress can damage health even more than hard physical labor - I've seen the results; & firmly believe faith in God is the best medicine we can find. My faith for myself is not that I'll live a long time ^{here} - but that when I die, there is Heaven; for all eternity! I don't deserve it - but Jesus made it possible for me to go there! no matter what happens to me here, I feel that is what it takes to get me "fit" to go. (I must still be "un-fit"  - but I'm trying!)

I'd better get this in the mail box - hope you can read it.

Love & Prayers,

Esther

Thanks to each of you for the lovely cards! I enjoy every one - like an old miser, I "collect" them & read them over & over & over again!