

Hampton, April 24, 1971 -

Thank you, dear Margaret for your satisfactory letter about Ethel's going.

Strongly, I had been praying more definitely the days nearest her departing, for her well being. I did not know of her failing hold on life.

One wonders what communication there is in the "world" of the spirit.

Now some action can be taken about

The old house which has been so much a part of our lives:

A Mrs. Porter, who is kind to Polina, and writes letters for her, had written me about neglect, and some vandalism at the house when she answered my Christmas letter to Polina. From what she has said in her letters I think Mrs. Porter is employed at the nursing home where Ethel was. She mentioned in that last letter that she saw Ethel, every day, and she seemed relaxed and comfortable, tho sometimes not clear minded. Mrs. Porter writes a good letter, content and handwriting.

I suppose Ethel's means were sufficient to see her thro life, and take care of all the last expenses, The Lays were frugal, and the two wage earners had good salaries for a long time.

Aunt Mary, Uncle Hugo, and four of their children are gathered there on The Hill - Josephine and little Tom lie in Weston, W. Virginia, I think. But it doesn't matter, does it?

I am sure no word has reached you of my brother Bob's recent serious illness.

He is now in a nursing home in Winchester. John wrote me a good letter as soon as he could when it seemed Bob would rally.

It was just a general failure, heart mostly. He told his children he was no longer able to take care of Emily. Robert and Jean and Emily Jr were with him, Emily for about a week, but Robert had to get back to the hospital in Nashville after part of two days and a night.

This past week, Emily has written us that Robert and Jean will arrive at John's home today to take her back with them to their home in Nashville tomorrow, April 25th.

3

She and Bob have given up their small apartment in the Geo Washington hotel. John and Phyllis have emptied it and done what was to be done with their possessions, Phyllis doing most of it. So now Bob has no home for Emily, and he is waiting peacefully for the one "Eternal in the heavens!" They write me that ^{he} can move about his room and attend to his personal needs. He has little strength and sleeps frequently. He enjoys Emily's daily letters, and is cheerful - Of course he is! He has laid down all his responsibilities, and is just resting, in the Lord. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee" - "Isaiah knew how to say it. So none of us is feeling sorrowful about his going, just awe filled at ~~and~~ the finality of any earthly contact with him. I hope he won't linger long here. John sees his father twice a day, and Phyllis has given Emily all the help she could. I hope the new arrangement will somewhat lighten the pressure those two have been under for about six weeks - They must be very tired now that anxiety is somewhat less.

It is always a satisfaction to hear from either of you two - I always think of you together. Mary and Sue keep going, I think because each one needs the other. They are devoted sisters, and Sue treasures this time with Mary. I thoroughly enjoyed seeing Rod and Ric Lee and Henri. And, as you say, it is heartwarming to see Ric Lee so deeply satisfied. It is easy to love Henri. I think we have right fine kin, I am very proud of them!

We are all right here, Bob Virginia and I. I grow deeper by the day, it seems to me, but my other machinery works fairly well - no complaints. Will you give my love to Mary Ribble? She was a pleasure to Mema and Mamiel, but I have not seen a great deal of her.

My love is always for you and Mamiel.
 Alice.