

4-8-99

Dear Mike & Darla,

Dave told me you are interested in some family history. I sent Bob most of these letters, but I wasn't sure you had them. I am enclosing Grandma's letters, One letter from Grandpa, Some of her poetry and a letter from Aunt Ruth to Grandma ^{written} before she married Uncle Lee. I copied some of the originals so you can see her writing. I have some great pictures from this time I would be glad to copy for you if you would like. When Auntie (Becky) was dying I copied some of Darlene's pictures so I may have some that Bob doesn't have.

A little history on these letters:

When Mom and Dad married in Oct. of 1926, Grandma came to live with them. When Charnie was born Dad and Grandma delivered her and Dad gave her her first bath. Grandma did live in an apartment for a short,

while (which burnt down) but most of her life she lived with Mom & Dad. She visited her other children from time to time. These are the letters she wrote to Aunt Ruth & Uncle Lee. Aunt Ruth saved them and gave them to me. She also had more letters that Wes found when she died and he has promised to copy them for me. Grandpa & Grandma were estranged for most of the time after Mom & Dad were married, but Grandpa lived with them from time to time. Grandpa died long before I was born, but I remember Grandma quite well. She started suffering from dementia in the early 1950's and Mom and Dad put her in a nursing home sometime about 1953-54. Mom said Dad cried when he carried her to the car to take her there. I used to catch the bus after school and go visit her. Mom used to give me

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.15¢ to buy her grapes. She died in April of 1955. She had broken her hip and died of complications. Grandma was a very interesting lady, She was an artist, played the piano and was very well educated. She was a suffergette and wrote some articles to the paper on Women's rights that I can copy for you if you like.

Uncle Lee used to tell me "you are just like Ma" and that was not a compliment!

You might enjoy a book by Wallace Stegner called "Big Rock Candy Mountain" that I think really has a lot of parallels to Grandma & Grandpa's life.

I am writing this at our house in Longview, and miss our computer & spellcheck! Please ignore my numerous errors.

My memories are, of course, my own and your Dad may see them differently.

By the way, much to

Dave's delight, he said you
had my birthdate in 1940 - it
is really 1946, although after
the year I have had I feel
at least 60!

Give our love to your
family and come see us when
you can,

Love

Aunt Ginny