

April 6, 1953

Dear Aunt Mattie and Uncle Ed,

I feel sure you would want to know all about Father so that you, too, will know how peacefully he died.

Even as I write this, I keep saying to myself that it can't be.

Mom received a telegram from Roosevelt hospital very early Saturday morning, about 1 o'clock; to come to the hospital. She tried to get them on the telephone but there was no answer. She took the bus at dawn and when she arrived there, she was told that he had died in his sleep at 3 o'clock in the morning. His heart just couldn't take the next beat and it was all over.

On Friday afternoon, the boys had been over to see him. Bobby and Lou. Mom was there and Lou's darling Dene had come over also to wish him a Happy Easter. Dene is a joy to have around, and she was laughing with him, joking with him, and telling him how marvelous he looked. He was as pleased as could be and really showed her off to the others around him. She kissed him three or four times and waved so-long to him. Lou tells me that he hadn't seen Pop look so good in ten years. He had grown a little mustache and we were all kidding him about it. Mom touched his feet and saw that they were a little swollen, but he poot pooted it; said he was feeling wonderful; and he would be home soon. His papers had come through for his social security and he was quite elated at the thought of the independence that the \$80 a month would bring him. He was a thoroughly and completely happy man that Friday.

When I saw him last he was telling me how wonderful the people were to him at Roosevelt Hospital. That there were four nurses on duty in his little ward day and nite; with plenty of doctors around always. At the least cough or sigh or request, his needs were promptly taken care of. It is one of the best hospitals in the city and my mind is at ease for I know that at least he had the best care available. He always really enjoyed his visits to Roosevelt.

Mom had the hospital call Lou to come over and he called Bobby and so it was that Mom was all alone when he was told and she had to tell the boys. She is heartbroken and lonesome and though we thought we would have a very bad time with her, she was the strongest of all, and comforted us.

As you know, it is a Jewish custom to have the burial as soon as possible. Luckily Lou is a member of a lodge and with his friends was able to make arrangements. We had services for him and then took him on a long 2 hour drive to Beth Moses cemetery. I was dreading the burial itself, but when I saw the beautiful place he was to be laid in, I thought how ironic that at the very end he would have a home in a place that even he would approve of. It is a new cemetery on a hill with the most beautiful grounds. New and clean and lovely. And oh, what a perfectly glorious day. He was born on St. Patrick's Day and Buried Easter Sunday. You see peaceful his whole passing was. The day was bright and sunny and clear and warm- and we buried him in a place he would be happy in, of that I am sure.

John was away in California and flew in just in time for the funeral; Jeanette and Chris came up from Virginia. They had just been here last week and Jeanette was so happy she had seen Pop then.

At the services before the burial I could feel Pop's pride when the Rabbi called for his three sons to step forward to pay last respects and prayers for his soul.

Aunt Hattie - I want you to know and rest easy knowing that he was happy when he died and at long last found contentment on his trip from this world.

Jeanette had to leave last night after the funeral to get back to her darling Todd and Paddy and Lou went with her and Chris. Lou, John and I will be at home at Lou's place the rest of this week to receive the condolence calls of our friends and relatives.

Vicki took it quite hard but like all of us, time will heal all.

I hope his passing will be made easier for you now that you know we took the very best care of him that was possible.

As soon as possible, will write you again. Meanwhile, keep your little chin up - and take care of yourself and be happy.

Everyone joins in sending you their best love,