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Dear Family,

I started this letter on the 18th of February 1984 and having just found it will send it to you regardless of the lateness.

Well, day after tomorrow is President's Day. It so happens that it is also Mom's birthday! She often jokes that all the important people are born in February. But it's no joke, at least in the case of George, Abe, Ida-Rose, and David who are all very important to me. And let me tell you right now that I love them all. Let me hasten to add, however, that I love all the rest of you just as much even though you weren't born in February.

We're seeing a lot of the Olympics on TV right now. I've been wondering if George still holds the record for the Potomic Coin Toss? I'll bet he does, and I'll also wager that Abe has not been surpassed in the Rail Split. I know for a fact that Ida-Rose still holds the record in the Child Call, although I must admit that Donna Hill is a very close second. The above well-known medalist's achievements are merely a type and shadow of the true greatness in each. Take, for an example, that great Lady, Ida-Rose. She long ago won the gold in making a happy life for me. Just yesterday, I was thinking happy thoughts all day long as I kind of reminisced on our adventures together.

We're grateful to you children for letting us "escape" once in a while to go on genealogy trips and to just be together alone on occasion. I remember such a trip while we lived in Schenectady. We left you with friends and went to Montréal. We indeed had many wonderful trips with the entire family that we fondly remember. But the children do grow up, marry, and have their own families. In the end, it's just man and wife together and we are fortunate to enjoy each other's company. We have had so many interesting experiences together, especially as we have traveled. Let me tell you (from my diary) of a memorable experience in Japan:

We started up the trail from Hotel Fujiya to the Fuji View Stand. It was about eight o'clock in the morning, mostly cloudy, with occasional patches of blue sky. The clouds were moving more rapidly than I have ever seen clouds move. Yet on the ground, the breeze was only slight. At times, clouds at different levels in the sky would move in opposite directions and sometimes they would rapidly descend or rapidly rise. Meanwhile, the sun's rays would play on the luxurious mountains, the white hotels across the valley, the waterfalls and all else through the constantly changing pattern of holes in the overcast sky.