

Betty Hulburd Hine
Summer 1968 Letters
Leading to her August 31st Wedding

(Compiled by Ted Hine – March 2003)

The following 3 letters were sent by Betty from her St. Louis, MO home to her son Ted Hine who was spending the summer of 1968 with his father Kirt Hine in Garrison, New York.

The first letter, dated July 5th, was written before she had met her future husband, John Alderson. It was a typically newsy letter about her summer in St. Louis. Notable at the top of page 3 is a comment regarding an apparent attempt by a friend, Mrs. Mary Lee Epstein, at “match making”.

The second letter, dated July 19th, shows her excitement shortly after meeting John Alderson.

By the time the third letter was written on August 6th, Betty had returned from visiting John in California and detailed wedding plans had been made. These plans are described in the letter.

Table Of Contents

July 5, 1968 Letter – Page 1.....	2
July 19, 1968 Letter – Page 1.....	6
August 6, 1968 Letter – Page 1.....	8

July 5, 1968.

Very dear boys,

Well, this is long overdue but no longer than anything you might have wished to write to me! Ha! = The kiln is running & I am worried for fear I'll forget it what with writing you all and listening to the "Beishol" game. Have been making eggs & Xmas ornaments for the last few weeks, in spare evenings, to be a bit ahead of the game and to try to make up any missing salary. So far poor Mrs. Terrie (new manager) has been ill & I've taken over several times) also have made 17 more pairs of straw earrings 'cause they suddenly all sold out at the shop. That will be my last load, I'm sure for people are beginning to look toward fall clothes. No loss to me if they don't sell for they will show up as shoe buckles next year!! Chew, clever, little ol' me. = Haven't heard from Dede as to whether she liked hers, so probably not!!

Have been doing more legal "witnessing" for Stan & am beginning to get quite fed up with him. His "why did she do this to me" is trying my patience & I'm about to tell him that he should have done something for her years ago. No doubt I shall, some day soon for in his present (& probably past) mental

2. state, I'm not interested in keeping his friendship.

Hank & I are solving the one "car" problem beautifully. If I need it - I drive him to school & he walks home. Meet Laura & her friend, Mary Beth, the other day & Laura (really both) are dolls. Both were scared to death to meet this (probably) bear-like mother but I made lite chatter & retired to the kitchen quickly so they would not bolt & run. Before I removed myself I did note Hank's big paw holding her little dainty hand & it grinned to myself. First love is plenty special and very dear & makes me melt like butter.

I looked absolutely beautiful at the Junior League Ball a week ago! Guest of the Selden Spencis (Minneapolis) who returned to present their last daughter, Barbara. Unfortunately, Barbara was in the hospital!! Just that awful. A severe allergy to a pill she had taken to overcome a virus. Dr. Baumgarten was there & nearly flipped ~~to the~~ ^{all} me for I had been in bed all week with a "virus caused" pleurisy. I kept telling him I was going & I did. Left here at 9:00 PM & was home & back in bed at 12:00. Felt like Cinderella & her stepmother *but I had a grand time.*

3. Shall leave Sunday morning to visit in Jeff. City. Mrs. E's brother from California (widow) is visiting her & she wants us to meet. Match-making is for the birds but I'll go - have fun & be back Tuesday. Hank's B. day is Wed. (?) 7/10/68 so send him a loving message!!!!

Still have no plans for August but don't count on seeing me up there. Our weather since Greg's birthday has been 55 at night & 70 during the day with no humidity. Wlew! August will probably be 108 with 98° humidity but I'm too broke to think of a trip.

Sorry that I cannot mail your allowances with this but the check your father sent 7/1 was not acceptable. No bank name - no magnetic numbers - no nothing, so I sent it back. If I don't hear from him by Monday, I'll take some money from savings to pay bills & you all. Hate to do this for I then lose interest. Kit certainly knows better so I am assuming that Mr. Dodge must still have his checks for I would find it hard to talk myself into believing that he did it on purpose tho' he was quite late last month too. Can't believe that he is that broke or is he?

4.) How's the boat Greg? And what is your job Ted? Would love to hear from you both when you feel like taking pen in hand!!! Life is quiet - the dogs are fine & loved ice cream on their 9th B. day - Cat is wandering like mad & just feeds here. Rags will visit from 7/13 to 7/25 while Anne is on a pack trip in Idaho.

Am sure that there are 1000000000 things I have forgot to say but I'll send those on P.C.'s someday.

Love you both.

Mommy.

P.S. Aldwin's estate, not counting house & silver & belongings, is just about one million. How about that! Uncle Sam must be happy 'cause he is going to get the prettiest slice.

I rec'd a "Date by Computer" form from Boulder, Colo. Which one of you "thinking" souls put my name on the list? The questions ^{are} free but I shan't return it = costs money!

Mrs. Hulburd Hine

July 19, 1968.

1112 Terrace Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63117

Dear Ted -

Every day I float a little higher, tho' as each day passes I know that I could not be any happier.

It is probably a good thing that you are not here to see your mother acting like a confused 16yr. old in love.

John has a tremendous (tho quiet) sense of humor & is a most tranquil person.

Hank is still grinning from ear

to ear as are the day.

Of course you may tell
the greatest news of the
century for you are an important
part of it.

I love you too!



August 6, 1968 Letter - Page 1

August 6, 1968.

Dear Ted, Greg, and Dede:

A joint letter is the only way I'll accomplish my duties....so please accept with my apologies.....The boys wanted definite dates and I am sure that you all want news...so here goes.

I flew and John met me. California is the most amazing country and all the way to John's the country looked all burned and unfriendly. I kept wondering if I could get accustomed to such scenery but it didn't take long. John was very understanding and kept assuring me that the Golden Hills were truly beautiful and that people did enjoy living there etc. etc. Concord is rambling and one has no feeling of a town. John lives in a development with swimming pool club and all houses have green gardens walled in. The rooms are small but many....and his family are the greatest. Molly and new baby cooked all our meals, 2 year old ran around (Greg will delight him), Pat, her husband ran in between jobs (2 a day) and took apart his Carmin Gia during his lunch hour, Brad finished his summer class and stood around and grinned. He starts U. of Calif. in Davis Oct. 1st.....Molly, Pat and children will move around 9/15 to a trailer near campus for Pat and I hope, take lots of furniture with them.....Locke has already moved to Berkley and working for the Atomic Energy Commission. And I hope he comes back and takes lots of furniture with him. The house needs my touch and a bit of color. Big living kitchen which is great.

It took all week for John and me to accomplish wedding plans and license and blood tests, etc. And we were giggled at every place we went. We almost decided not to make it legal. I'll have to tell you the really funny experiences in person cause so much was humorous. Remind me.....Chuck Webster in Oakland took out my stitches for me so I am on the mend. Remember Chuck? One of the Nims group. My problem was a bit out of his field since he is in Cardiovascular diseases but he managed.....Called Wade and he and Judith are coming to the wedding as are all four Sullivans.....Now ...the wedding will be families and a few out of town guests only. You boys and John's children will all stand up with us and will double as Ushers. There will be more people standing at the altar than will be seated. Then after the ceremony we will take off for the Concord Inn (with wedding guests) to hold a reception which will include John's friends and business people., for lunch and champagne and drinks. Then we will escape or go to John's house to settle you boys on your way or something. We are going to take a honeymoon, hooray. To Carmel, I think.....Motel reservations are for 8/28 to 9/1 for you boys. T.W.A. to Denver on 9/1. I will fly out 8/28 and collapse

August 6, 1968 Letter - Page 2

2.

Rehersal is Aug. 29 at 5:00 (my natal day), 8/30 is pick up the cake , check on flowers and general confusion day, and wedding is at 11:00 Sat. morning. We must all be there early.....If this isn't clear, I can understand why.

Moving plans are as follows: Packers come in on 8/22, and 8/23. Van will be loaded 8/26 and 8/27. We leave 8/28. Meanwhile you boys and dogs and clothes and crud will start off in two cars for Colorado and thence to Calif. say about 8/24.....Now between then and now there is nothing to do except clean out everything in the house and garage. Throw or sell 9/10 ths of it away/. Pack for me....buy me a dress to be married in....notify people address announcements, lose everything that has to be saved...change addresses , close bank accounts, write press releases and try to br rested and pretty for the great day...Ha. Oh, yes, I forgot....SELL THE HOUSE.

And there is one more slight complication. Hank and Fritz and Jack Painter drove to Calif. Spent several days with Mal (old classmate) at Mill Creek, got picked up by Military Police and taken into San F. for questioning by , of all things , the C.I.A. and in general had a ball. They all arrived at John's Wed. night, to leave Hank with us for a few days. Thurs. morn Hank couldn't get up. Seems that he had had a headache for three days and suddenly "WHAP". Friday we were told by the M.D. that were he not a transient he would be in the hospital and that if his fever went down by Sun. morn he may be able to fly home with me , if not he stayed there for more tests, Cause they couldn't find out what was wrong but had established that it wasn't Polio, Mono, nor Spinal Menengitis...Well his fever went down and I held him up all the way home on the plane and we were met by John's ex-sister in law who brought us home. Inside the door was a big note left by real estate agent on 8/1 telling us that we had no plumbing nor water. Upstairs John had given way again making a mess in an empty house. Plumber came on an emergency call Mon. morn. We went to Sl. Lukes and Dr. B for tests and I am still trying to get a painter. Oh boy. Hank's tests came back today all same as in Calif. Chest X-ray negative so as of Thursday we go to a Hemotologist. Hank's blood count is still so far off that something serious is the matter but no one can find out what. At least he is still at home and not in the Hospital. He can't stand up for more than a couple of minutes. And he is pretty big for me to pick up. His temperature does funny things so Dr. B. said that he must have some sort of a blood disease. Serious? But he is sick and we will know more by Friday. Poor kid but at least he is reasonably comfortable lying down, and his friends have brought him Milkshakes and posies.

3.

Now if I have forgotten anything, just ask and I'll tell. Oh.....The climate in the valley where Concord is located is hot during the day ~~60~~ but no humidity and it drops to 40 at night. John and I took a walk every night with dog NERO who is a 'Mostly' and I nearly freeze. S.F. is cold this season of the year. Air conditioner in car gets turned off half way there. Summer in S.F. is Oct. Winter in Concord is rainy season which starts in Dec. Sweater and skirt weather, for daytime. I left winter clothes at John's for going to S.F. and summer shifts to wear in Concord. Concord is one hour from the S.F. airport and John commutes to S.F. to work every day. Instead of a suit Hank bought a dark Blue blazer and dark grey trousers. I don't see why he can't wear this to the wedding for morning but I want a thought from Sister on this. He looked snappy in it with a blue button down shirt and dark tie and maybe all Hine Boys could dress the same. John tends toward dark suits so we can form sides and vote. After all I may be married in bluejeans.

Haven't had one single minute to write to John Nalley so please show him this letter, Dede. He sent a grand note and card. We will have a photographer at wedding and recep. so there will be a record of this great event. Also music.

Now if Dede can come she can stay in my Motel room with me, you boys are all together.

3 beds.

Drive carefully boys. I really do not think that I can take anything else at this moment. John says that I have been running on reserve for four weeks and I guess he is right.

Please keep the folks in North Caldwell up to date for I have no time to write. Tell everybody to come to the wedding and recep. and we will have a blast. Next summer during John's vacation we will have a cocktail party ~~in~~ in St. Louis so that we can meet each others friends and sooth the brows of all those who are mad cause we are not marrying here. John is not a well heeled man but is so absolutely great and warm and pixie and HE LOVES ME VERY MUCH. And me too.

Sister keep me posted on what days you might be able to get off from Finch. It would be so grand to have you at the wedding.

Love you all.

Mommy and Susan

P.S. John plays tennis and bridge and swims like a fish. We are the same hight when I am in high heels , short grey crew cut, usually a bow tie, muscular, small pot belly which I shall endeavor to remove. Brad is bigger than Ted (and electrical) and Locke is built like Greg. Molly is female and has the biggest eyes I've ever seen. Sorry a Hine boy didn't find her first.