

February 21st, 1979

David S. Howard
1077 Cambridge Drive
Santa Barbara, Calif. 93111

Dear Dave:

You certainly made my day when I received your letter and draft of the Peck Family History. I have read and reread your letter several times and have studied the draft with great interest and it has been like a shot of some powerful stimulant the way it has kindled my thirst for knowledge of my family. I regret that I did not start some sort of a record of both sides of my family years ago when it would have been much easier than now.

I am sure that we can exchange information and be very helpful to each other and to Martha's daughter Peggy. I will try and send you the things you ask for but will of necessity have to send it as I am able to accumulate it. I will try and fill out the family group sheets for you and mail with this letter. I am sorry that I am unable to type them but I just have a portable and the sheets are too wide for it. As for sending you a copy of my family history that I am trying to put together, that will have to come later as I will need to have some copies made at the printers at Terre Haute and since we are in the midst of some bad weather I will wait until it is warmer. We have really had a cold and snowy Winter here and it keeps me inside most of the time. At the present time I have about forty pages typed of my family history, designed with my daughters in mind and it contains some things that I doubt would be of interest to you. I think though that maybe the first twenty-five pages might be as it contains mostly Dickenson-Peck history. I will welcome anything that you may wish to send me in the future and I want to thank you very much for what you have sent.

I was pleased to learn something about my Uncle Roy's family as I have lost contact with any of them and have seen only Lucille, at Uncle Roy's funeral, of the four daughters of his first marriage, since the mid 1930's. If I remember correctly Edna came to Clinton with Lucille but became ill and was not able to attend the funeral and I did not get to see her at that time. I realize and sympathize that it was a long way for your Mother and Loretta to travel, from California to Indiana. I am impressed, learning of the family that your Mother and Father raised, the adoptions and foster children it just seems a great and noble way to serve humanity. They earn my respect.

You state in your letter that you would like to have any recollections that I might have of my grandparents and their brothers and sisters. I was quite small when my grandfathers passed away and remember nothing of my own knowledge of them. I do have good recollections though of my grandmothers, and especially after I was about eighteen, being around my grandmother Peck. I had spent the most part of 1926 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan where my Aunt Ethel and cousin Mae were living and then late in the Fall we all came back to the States. It was then that I stayed with Grandma and Uncle Albert for a short time before going on to Three Rivers, Michigan. Roy and his four daughters were also staying there, this of course was after the death of his first wife and your Grandmother Margaret Peck nee Senter. Since some of the girls were having or the medical authorities were concerned that they might have respiratory problems, they had been advised to sleep out and so they were sleeping outside in a tent. The girls were real small then and they and Roy would get into their night clothes in the house and then run like crazy for the tent and their beds. There was no heat in the tent and so early in the morning they would come racing for the warm house, and stand over the register, shivering and shaking. They were all beautiful kids and to me looked the picture of health. Roy slept in the tent also and of course was working in the mine along with Albert and they operated a cutting machine at one of the Bogle mines. So to get back to grandma Peck, the point I wanted to bring out was that she was about 66 years old at the time and here she was cooking and keeping house for all of us and although she was somewhat heavy she seemed to do it with ease, and I might add she put a lot of love in it too. Loretta and Lucille might have been going to school at the time but I am sure that your Mother and Edna were too young. Grandma Peck was hard of hearing and it was necessary to almost yell for her to hear you so she missed out on much conversation but she was very alert and loved to read, mostly books or novels as she called them. She was a very kind and loving person and was good to your Mother and her sisters and we need to give her a great big plus for that. Then there was Aunt Betty Wolberg who was the sister of Claude Emerson Peck, whom I was not around very much and did not get to know very well. Her husband was Jewish and operated a general merchandise store in Terre Haute for many years. Aunt Betty did teach piano and it might have been her that my Mother took lessons from. My Aunt Ollie, sister of my Mother worked in the store for them and also lived with them in the living quarters above the store. Grandma Peck, Uncle Albert and I visited them several times in the Summer of 1925. They all passed away shortly after in the late 1920's.

I hope that I have made the Family Sheets plain enough and complete to your

VALLEY DEATHS

ROY M. PECK

Aug. 29, 1963

CLINTON, Ind. — (Special.) — Roy M. Peck, 66 years old, of 800½ South Main Street, died at the Vermillion County Hospital early Thursday after an illness of several months. He was a member of Calvary Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Surviving are the widow, Lois; one son, the Rev. Jimmy Gene Peck of Enterprise, Ala.; six daughters, Mrs. Loretta Singer of West Covina, Cal., Mrs. Mary Howard of Altadena, Cal., Mrs. Edna Richter of Roselle, Ill., Mrs. Lucille McCarthy of Chicago, Mrs. Patricia Black of Rockledge, Fla., and Mrs. Joan Sladden of Miami, Fla.; a sister, Mrs. Ethel Span of California; a brother, Albert Peck of New Mexico; 16 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Funeral services will be held at the First Presbyterian Church at 3 o'clock Friday afternoon with the Rev. F. Daniel Sladden, son-in-law of Mr. Peck, officiating. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery. There will be no viewing of the body at the Frist Funeral Home.