

30, SEPT. 56 SUN.

Hi, My Beautiful, Sweet, Wonderful Wife!

Oh honey, I love you so, + I missed writing to you honey. I've had a guilty feeling, with every passing day. Even though I didn't write, you know that I love you.

Well Doll, I don't know where to start. I got back to the base last night around 6:30 PM. I found six of your wonderful letters waiting for me. That was a wonderful welcome back feeling.

The pictures of Miki were great hon. I loved them all. The cutest pic of all, was the one of you + Mike together. I miss + love you both very much, honey.

I'll start as of a week ago last Friday. I left for Rome about 7:30 AM. after 3 hours of flying, we landed in Algiers to refuel. Sat in Algiers close to an hour.

The weather was pretty rough over Italy. It took us a bit longer than we expected to arrive in Rome.

2) We landed in Rome about 4:30 P.M. From the Air Field we took a cab into town. I asked the driver to take us to a decent hotel. He took us to a very nice hotel. Excuse me hon, when I say "us", I mean a couple of buddies of mine + myself. They came to Rome for the week end. The hotel cost us about \$3.50^{a day} apiece, + that included two meals a day.

We showered, + changed clothes, ate + took off to see Rome. Rome is an awful large city. We walked, + walked, + walked. I asked several people where the fountain was. They all looked at me if I was crazy. They wanted to know, "which fountain"? The one I was looking for is where the picture, "Three Coins to The Fountain," was filmed. After seeing a bit of Rome, I realized how silly the question I asked was. My goodness honey, they have all kinds of fountains in Rome.


We walked around until 2:AM. Then

3, headed back to our hotel. I had planned to leave Rome Sat. for Sicily. But Sat. while I was on a tour. The guide stopped by the airlines office to check on a flight for me. The flight that afternoon was all reserved. So, I made a reservation, to leave Rome Sunday morning. That gave me all day Saturday in Rome.

Our guide took us to the most important places in Rome, for a price, of course! I saw and have pictures of: The Colosseum, the unknown soldiers monument, the Forum, & the Cathedral of St. Peter's. I have so much to tell you honey.

I saw many many more places, but to write about it is difficult. All the while I was seeing Rome I craved for you, honey. If you could have only been there with me, it would have been a "Roman Holiday."

I left for Sicily about 8:AM Sunday. about a hour after take off we landed in Naples. We stayed there only about

4, 20 minutes. Mt. Vesuvius ^(SP) looked like this  clouds, very beautiful night.

From Naples we landed in Palermo Sicily. Stayed there about 20 minutes. Then departed for the province of Trapani. Which is about a 30 minute ride to Marsala.

I told the driver of the car the address I had, & he tried to remember if he knew where it was. He took me right to the place I wanted to go. It was an address my Grandma in Detroit gave me, two years ago. They ended up being my second cousins on my Mother's side.

They greeted me with open arms honey. I asked them if they knew my Uncle or Aunts. And to my surprise, they said, they didn't! But my cousin told me that the next morning he would check the court house for my Uncle's address.

Sunday night they fed me very well. Cooked over a pound of pasta for me alone. Of course I didn't eat

5) it all. I couldn't! Boy, they sure believe in eating in Italy.

After we ate they took me to a movie, "Ali Ba Ba," in Italian. I didn't understand all of it. It was fun though.

I guess I slept like a baby that night. But I never stopped thinking of you honey.

That next morning my cousin took me to the court house. I told him the name of my Grandfather + Grandmother. And they found the rest. They even told me that my father left Italy in 1911.

We took the address of two of my uncles. We figured that if we found one we would find them all.

The rest of that morning the son of my cousin, walked me around Marsala. I sure am tired of walking.

Later, back at the house, my cousin came home for lunch. He said he found a friend of his with a scooter, that would take us into the country to find my relatives.

6) We ate real quick like, + took off for the country.

We rode for quite a ways. Then they decided to ask for information. Oh, I almost forgot hon. The three of us were all on one scooter.

The place ~~was~~ where we stopped didn't know my uncles by name, but they recognized a picture that I had of one of my uncles. Then those people learned who I was, they hugged + kissed me. They know my mother very well. In fact, my mother use to go to school, in that very same building that I was in.

With the information that we gathered there, I was taken right to my first Uncle's home. When we pulled up my cousin told my aunt to kiss me first, + then he told her who I was. And what joy, honey.

My Uncle Paul wasn't home, but she said that she would run into the fields + call him. And to stop back on the way into town. So we went

7 on to find the next family. We got to one side of a hill & asked where the Pulizzi's live, & some one pointed up the hill. When we got there my cousin asked for Pulizzi, & honest honey, the hill side was loaded with them. He told my other aunt to kiss me first, then he told her who I was. And that was it! The hill was full of laughter & joy. And ever tears honey. That Aunt there was my Aunt Katherin, under my father in age. She even looked like my father.

None of the men were there. They had all ~~the~~ left the day before, for the fields to pick grapes. But word was going out to tell them to come home. I never saw so many people in my life, that were all related to me.

I'll cut out a few parts honey. Anyway, that next morning they came into town after me. My cousin who is also 23, came into town to get

8, me on his scooter. We headed to his house first. His mother is my father's second sister. We ate there at my Aunt's house. He plays the clarinet & my little cousin ^{my cousin} Peter plays the drums. So we had music. After eating & talking we headed for the hillside for the feast.

There I met 4 of my Uncles. And all my cousins & my two Aunts also were there.

I was pulled from one place to another. Every one had some thing to say. What a day honey! I'll bet there were over 40 people there, and they were all related to me. I've got pictures of everyone & everything that went on honey. I took ~~over~~ ^{many} pictures & 80 photos in Italy. And everyone wants ~~see~~ pictures that I took of that day. I hope they all turn out O.K. I've got to show my father how his family is, and what they all look like.

9, We all had a big dish of Pasta +
I do mean big. We all talked. Oh,
at the dinner table my Uncle Mario
had tears in his eyes. And I know
that he was wishing that my father
was there.

That's all they asked about is, if my
father plans to ever see them again.

They all have respect for my father, +
every one of them love him very much.

They want you + Mike, + I to come
back to Sicily with my father. I think
almost everyone saw your picture that
I had in my billfold, + Mike's too.
They made a big fuss over Mike.

I saw the room where my father
was born. My Uncle ~~Michael~~ Michael
lives in the house where my father was

10/ born.

Monday after letting everyone know that I was there, My cousin took me to the house that my Grandma in Beloit still owns. It's the house where my Mother was born. Iin got a shot of that + also of where my father was born.

It was wonderful to see all those relatives + places.

I thanked God, over + over, for letting my father + Mother come to America. Those people still live like they did when my father left there. Just think honey, I could have been one of them.

As poor as they are, they are still very happy people.

My goodness honey, I could go on + on. but I won't. You'll hear about it the

11) rest of our lives.

Almost all of them walked me to the bus stop that night. My Uncle Paul, Michael, Pepie + two cousins + my Aunt (the wife of Paul) came into town with me that night.

They wouldn't let me pay for anything. Earlier that day I ran out of film, + they ran a bought a roll + my Uncle Mike insisted on paying for it.

We all said goodly that night. There were some tears shed.

They gave me a big box of dried figs. and a few bottles of wine. I still have mine bottles of wine left. I want to try + get that wine home. I hand carried that wine

¹²
/ from Marsala, all the way back
here. And after all that trouble, &
all the custom checks I went
through, I'm determined to get
that wine to Rockford.

I left Sicily Wed. morning. Spent
nights in Rome. I called TWA Thur.
& it's a good thing I did. For they
didn't have a reservation made
for me to leave on Friday.

They checked back to when
I bought my tickets & they did
goof, some where along the line.

They didn't have room on
the Friday flight. So, they made
a reservation for me to leave
Rome Thur. aft. with another
air lines. And I flew 1st class.
They paid the difference.