

Missao do Dondi, C.P. 28
Bela Vista, Angola, F W A
October 22, 1957

Dearest Mother,

A letter to Olive and one to you. You won't get over it!

Well, I didn't write in hers about John Farrow. Tragic for his wife. Tragic for Mrs. Farrow, too. Test pilots certainly haven't much to gain for the most part. Others who live and those who fly in all kinds of planes have something to gain of course, but it does seem as if many of the up and coming young men of the past few years have been blowing up in the jet jobs. For some of course it is the only kind of life, however hazardous. For others it is a job, and of course gets to be more of one. And if the trend continues a lot more fellows are going to be killed in jet accidents and in other high powered machines of the present age. No worse than getting killed off by Indians I suppose, or the waves of the Atlantic, or a dinosaur, or a dynamite explosion, or a buzz saw, but there it is and the tragedies continue. If you see Mrs. Farrow, please tell her that we were very sorrow to hear of John's death. You might convey the same to John's wife, but the chances are she will remain in Florida.

We were filled with a conviction that the atomic age has really come the other day when we heard the news of the Russian satellite having been successfully pushed up beyond the earth's atmosphere. Mother, what you have seen in your lifetime and what we are seeing in ours is something to make one gasp. Who in high school in Strong in 1928 would have thought of TV, wide screen movies, jet planes, atomic power and the myriad other things which have been invented in these years. There were scientists who knew that some of these things might possibly come to be some time, but to have had these countless revolutionary inventions appear in these years with two world wars raging has certainly brought about great changes in many, many different parts of the world. No wonder some people cannot keep from going off. Were it not for the faith of my childhood and the contacts with others of the same faith, the stronger than mine, I should be close to that state myself I think.

Well, we shall hope to see you again in a matter of some months, Mother. We are now preparing for the trip home, hoping to go part way by air and part way by boat, but nothing is settled as yet. I hope that we don't have to go earlier because of our state of health. We should like to take the children by the World's Fair in Brussels and from England by boat. We have written to Pan American asking for information on such a trip. We shall let you know more shortly. We plan to leave here the second week in July and to be in Maine by the middle of August. We shall put the children in school in Auburndale this time. It will be better for us all. We already have the promise of a house there. We hope to have a car, too, a used one of course. We have asked Dad Dorr to do some inquiring about a used heavy car of Chrysler make and hope to do a little traveling with it. More about this in following letters.

Stay well this coming winter and we shall be looking ahead to seeing you.

Most lovingly from your son, *Racho*