

01 April 1955

Photo Lab.

1000 PM PCT

Dear Dad,

I know that you will be po'd at me for not sending the box today like I said I would, but I just woke about eight this evening. I slept all day long, didn't play golf or anything, just slept. I guess I needed it as I sure feel wonderful. Not an ache or sore spot on me. My mind is clear as a bell and sharp as hell.

I'm calling tomorrow. By the time you receive this I'll have talked with you and Mom. I don't know why I let myself forget those things that I have said I would do but I do just the same. I know you are wondering what in the hell is wrong with me, I don't know except that I have a damn hard job on hand with the storekeeping and trying to chase the hell out of the strikers and not let anyone snow me while I'm doing those things. I received yours and Mom's letter when I woke up this evening. I'm going to answer both letters before I go and turn in till morning.

I'm taking the 4x5 View Camera with me tomorrow. I'm getting quite a bit of complements on the job I shot on the Aj-2 crash aboard. I must have shot at least a dozen pictures and they used about ten of them and I feel happy that they turned out as they did. Maybe they will see that I can do any type of Photo work if and when I am called upon to do it.

That was the first job on a crash that I handled a Speed Graphic so I done very well for being so damned excited as I was and don't you think for one minute that I wasn't upset and excited. I shot about a dozen and was so darned excited that I just handed the camera to Burwell and said "Here you shoot for a while". Ha Ha. I was so darned upset that I didn't go a thing wrong. Then he shot a couple and said, "Here you're the duty Photo". I guess I done a good job as I overheard the Photo Officer and the chief's discussing how good a job I had done. Well, that only makes me a little higher up the ladder here in the lab. Now don't get me wrong, I don't kiss their butt as you can probably figure out. I do my work to the best of my knowledge.

I mailed the pictures that I said I would and they only cost \$1.60. I had them air mailed and you will have them by Monday. I'm sure of that.

You had better stay away from Infra-Red stuff or you'll be all confused once you start to shoot with it. I'd much rather shoot existing light stuff than infra-red. Well, I'd better get on with the letter or I'll not finish it tonight.

Did you receive the formula on Ansco 17-A developer for 10X Photography? If I haven't sent it to you already I will while I'm at sea this week. I'm sure that you will get a heck of a lot more out of photography. You will be able to take pictures almost any place at all, but just have to watch your lighting and angles. I've got 200 feet of 35mm film for you, one is ASA 25 and the other 10 100 is ASA 50. I'm sure that you will like it. Being a store keep has it's finer points also. Ha Ha. I printed all the 35mm negs you sent and will send them along one of these days, you will just have to learn to compose properly and you'll have it. I hope there isn't any trouble after it's fixed this time. I'm looking forward to the box that you mentioned that's being sent. That's all right. I used a few sheets of it and it was ok. You'd better get to the dentist the first thing and get that tooth out. I wouldn't fool with it. You know what happened to me.

I have a schedule of Hornet for some time to come but I can't let it out. Only I'll be fine for a long time after we leave the states. I'll let you know where I have been after I've been there. You'll really be surprised at the places we are to go. Sure, I'd like to have a Mercury Montclair, but it's out of the income.

Oh yes, you mentioned the camera that Burwell has. He has a Canon 35mm. He had 85mm Nikkor lens on at that time. He shot my picture, (11x14) with it. You see, if you try a little extra you can do almost anything you want to do. You saw the side of the negative he shot and I made the print. So you see, 35mm isn't a setback to shoot black and white stuff. The camera doesn't make the pictures, it's the person behind the trigger that makes them. You know that don't you? Of course, the camera is only the half of the job. If you do your part right, I'm quite sure the camera will do the rest.

Don't forget, when you send your Rollei send the neck strap also. I've got a new one for this Rollei I have and it won't work on yours. So, send yours with it. You just get the Leica and the Rollei that I send insured. Don't get the one you'll be sending insured as I'm going to sell it you know.

Play 629 on stock this week. Just a hunch. You just had better take it easy on removing the rear springs. I'll get a new pair of field glasses in Japan. I expect to be in Japan about the 14th of June or a few days sooner. Tell Ernie not to worry about the score board. I'll do it this week. I saw the results one fellow shot of it and I saw his errors and composition so I'll choose the best I can and do the job.

So you finally got around to using the long lens. The 85MM is best one for head & shoulder shots. Just don't forget to correct for parallex and you'll be 4.0. You sort of got all sorts of positions when you shot the ones in the police station. Wipe a few smiles and grins off, straighten the hats, and shoot. Hats cocked on one side of the head and tilted back isn't very good if you know what I mean.

Well Dad I've come to the end of your letter, so I think that I will close for now and then start on Mom's letter. I have to get some stamps and envelopes to mail this and Mom's letter. So long for now and I hope you like the pictures that I sent also the Leica handbook in the folder. I'm sure you will like the prints. You will see just about how far you can go with 35mm negatives. I think I could have gone farther, but I just didn't think I should. More to follow this coming week.

So long now and take care of yourself and Mom. I'll just about have to wait until I take the exam to tell how I will make out on PH2. So long and good night for a little while. Say hello to all for me and I miss everyone.

Your Pal & Shadow,
Bobby