June 14, 1961

Dearest Folks,

I received your card and gifts the other day, and I want to thank you both with all my heart. You've already done so much for me — I'll never be able to thank you both enough.

I had my last exam Monday, so I've been free of classes and studying since then. I've been working extra board jobs, and picked up $7.50. The place where I work is closed now — it closed tonight — but the Boss fixed it up so I can eat at one of the other dormitories until Sunday.

Folks, I've been trying to decide what to do about coming home between graduation — the 18th — and June 30th. I'm afraid I can't come, as much as I'd like to and as much as you want me to. I've agreed to write those short articles for "Country Beautiful," and I'm also supposed to work on another article for the journalism school magazine, "Add 1." I have to do a lot of research in the library for both of these, and no matter how I figure it, the research and writing will take more than a week. This just doesn't leave me the time to make a trip home for more than a couple of days. I would rather stay here and see if I can earn a little money writing — that way when I come home early in August I likely won't have to work and can spend my time with you. This means I won't get to see you until about 7 weeks from now.
Hope you understand this isn't because I don't want to come home - literally at. But it will be an immense help in getting a job after I finish school if I can say I've had some writings published. Besides that, a trip home would cost an extra $75-80. I'd rather have you use the money you need to enjoy yourselves, or buy something you need. So, I'll wait until early August - likely around the 7th.

Thanks I'll buy a summer suit tomorrow, if I can find one for a reasonable price. If the weather would stay as cool as it is now, I wouldn't need a light suit, but it'll warm up again, I'm afraid.

I received definite notification of my scholarship, and I told them I planned to accept it and return next fall. So, I should be well set.

In the next few days I'll be moving to Warren's, where I'll stay until I begin work the 30th. So, to write me, the address is:

Ivan Doig
60 Warren Court
2014 Sherman Ave.
Evanston, Ill.

I'll let you know of my next address change, too.

Dad, I'll do my best to get some movies of graduation for you folks, but don't know if I'll be able. I haven't found anyone with a movie camera yet, but I'll keep looking. At any rate, I'll send you some photographs. Warren said he'd take some Sunday, and I'll furnish his film.
Grandma, hope your arms clear up, Lord. If it's been a long time that wasn't true, and I'm glad it hasn't been. I really mean it. I write this partly to tell you how glad I am.

Guess that's about it for now—except to say and thank you for everything. You've sure been a wonderful influence to the thinking of your both when that diploma worn Sunday because you've earned it for me as much as I have ever.

P.S. My telephone number at University Town will be 4-2780 in case you would have to reach me in an emergency.
Dear Jack -

Esther Harper passed along to us your request for information about the Dean family birthplace, as Carol and I and Frank and Lucie were the ones who visited that area in the spring of 1973. Actually, all the information we have is about your grandmother's side of the family, except for the fact (which Frank found on the death certificate he has) that your grandfather was born in England on March 26, 1868, son of Thomas Dean and Mary A. Cowley—none of us know where in England, although it seems to me Lucie told me it was somewhere in the Midlands, maybe near Manchester. Your grandfather's full name, as you may know, was John Thomas Dean. Possibly Somerset House in London, which I think is the central repository of English birth and census information, would be a way to try to track his birthplace and family background.

As for your grandmother's family, we looked at records—Frank, Carol and I all recall them as christening records—in the Methodist chapel in Frome, a small city west of London, close to Bath and Bristol. Her name was Annie Esther Bell, and according to Frank's death certificate for her, she died May 20, 1947, at the age of 76 years, 10 months, 28 days—which as I calculate it (please check my figures—math is not my strong point) would make her probably birthdate June 22, 1870. And we think she was born there in Frome. Her parents were Joseph Bell and Mary Burfett. We found, I see by a note in my diary of that trip, the baptisms of your grandmother and one of her sisters in those church records; the sister's may have been in 1868, as I noted that the first records we looked at went back only to 1878, I pestered the minister further and he got the key and opened the safe where some earlier ones were kept, I flipped them open to 1868 and there was anotherondon of the Bell baptisms.

I hope this helps. We all appreciated the sympathy cards you sent in the aftermath of Lucie's death. Carol and I went over and had Easter brunch with Frank at his retirement home today, and he's coping really very well.

best wishes
March 22, 1984

Mrs. Esther Harper
Miss Barbara Harper
411 S. Ramm
Anaheim, CA 92804

Dear Aunt Esther and Barbara:

Ann and I, along with Jack and his wife Debbi, will be traveling to England this summer and perhaps will have the opportunity to go to the birthplace of Grandpa and Grandma Dean. Would you send me some (either on audio-tape or by letter) information concerning their birthplace. I remember years ago you sent me one letter, but I can't seem to locate it, regarding the fact that some relative had found their name in a city directory of some kind.

I'm in a hurry right now to get things finished, for Ann and I leave for Florida in the morning. We will not be leaving for Europe until May 13th. Whatever help you can be to us in this regard will certainly be appreciated.

With love,

Jack

JTD/vlj

John Thomas Dean - Mar. 20, 1868
Mary A. Colley
Thomas Dean

Dean/ mate - Midland?
Mary Buffett
Jos. Bell - From Methodist
Grandma & 10/21/70
Annie E. Bell -

Get death certificate

Chapel

76 yrs, 10 mo., 28 days

Records in Ledgers

Christian

May 20
(1847 - Dec. 77)