

311 South Lake Street, Carlsbad N.M.
February 23rd, 1960

Dear Blanche:

Your letter of February 14th was read with keenest interest. Coralie, my wife, had heard about you and your distinguished son and she shared my interest and understood my pleasure at renewing my acquaintance.

I was sorry to learn of the untimely death of your brother Exum. He impressed me as a person that everyone would like and trust. He had the poise of a person of maturity, even while he was quite young.

Old age, when one has no children, can be bleak and cheerless. Although we have four, I often wish there had been more.

I am sure that your nephew, whom you heard, could hardly be any more to you had he been your own child instead of your sister's.

No doubt he reciprocates most warmly your affection and his achievements are a source of justifiable pride, both to you and his father. You write that and children are yet to come.

Grandchildren are also a great incentive to live. We have eight. Our daughter who lives here, has two little boys. They are in the local schools.

Last week we attended a Boy Scout banquet. One of our grandsons was promoted from a Cub Scout to a Wolf Scout. He also was given remarks for certain achievements. The younger one, who had just passed his eighth birthday, was officially received as a Cub Scout and given the appropriate insignia to be attached to his uniform.

This daughter, the mother of the little boys, has a devoted admirer who asked me for her hand over long distance telephone, two thousand miles away. Since he is a Presbyterian minister and a man of warm personality and exemplary character, I readily

consented. No date has yet been fixed for the wedding but it will be at some time in the summer. They will live in Miami, Florida.

Elisabeth, my daughter, whom we have called by the Spanish abbreviation Eliza (pronounced E-lee-sa) will finish her contract to teach here until June 2nd. We shall then drive to our home in Montreat, N.C.

We live in the mountains there where the summers are usually cool and pleasant. But there is always some snow, sleet or ice at some time in winter.

Harold and Eliza have a comfortable apartment on the same lot with their house and they want us to occupy the apartment during the winter. Eliza is rated highly as a teacher of Spanish. She has classes in five schools, 543 pupils altogether.

The salaries paid for such work here are much better than in North Carolina, but it costs more to live. Since I like my coffee very early, I usually rise before day, make a pot of coffee, fry bacon and eggs and serve each of my women folk breakfast in bed.

I also feed the children. They get lunch at school. Coralie and Eliza get the evening meal, which is usually quite substantial. Our lunch at home is usually light. All of us drink a lot of milk and eat

plenty of fruit. My weight is about the same as it was fifty years ago.

Both Coralie and I have badly damaged hearts and spend about half of our waking hours in lying down. Otherwise we should both have died years ago.

We have six bedrooms and two and a half bath rooms in our house at Montreat. At times all of our grand children have been with us at once.

The spring in Montreat is a season of much interest and delight. Blood root, wild violet and snow mountain iris precede mountain laurel, then when the dogwood is in bloom we feel that we are in a fairyland. Later two kinds of rhododendron bloom. Trillium and other wild flowers are abundant. In the autumn the autumn

foliage is a mass of color. The scenery is such that one never grows tired of it.

You and your husband and Ralph Jr. should visit us either in the autumn or spring.

At the time our grandchildren are in school we should have plenty of room for all of you. When my daughter marries and goes to Florida, we shall have no other means of transportation except taxis and buses.

My youngest brother Donald, still lives in Rockingham, N.C. The other members of our family are all dead.

Caralie and I appreciate your invitation to visit you and your husband in Lenfield.

I am sure that he must be very fine man, otherwise you would not have married.

I enjoyed my garden very much in Mexico. We were on the edge of the Yucatan, but the altitude, 6500 feet kept us comfortable even in midsummer. If there is an electric fan in the city in which we lived, I have never seen it.

Roses bloomed throughout the year. Dahlias were the largest I have ever seen. Crêpe myrtle bloomed in April and May. Iris and other flowers followed. Carnations abound at that time. There were some flowers, the names of which I never learned in English. In November my patio was ablaze with the bright red blooms of poinsettia. These remained until March.

I hoped when I should have to retire, to remain in Mexico and cultivate roses and other flowers. But with our bad hearts, this was impossible.

Our lot at Montreal is so steep that we need the trees. And roses, as you know, much love sun.

If I ever see you we shall have much to talk about. On Sunday I am scheduled to speak at the First Presbyterian Church.

With warmest greetings in which Caralie joins, to you,
your husband and son,
Sincerely your friend
Llewellyn D. Coppidge

I forgot to ask in what
Ralph Jr. took his Ph.D.
This I would like very much
to know, also how you pro-
nounce your name.
Is it like Ryner or Reiner?