

Kalamazoo, Mich. ⁽¹⁾
May 29-37

Dear Ones all.

Just a few lines to put
in with Edonna's card.

We got here wensday P. M.
but the boy got here first as
he arrived Tuesday A. M.

Went right up to the hospital
to see Rachel as Cecil came just
a little while after we got here
Helen was down town when we
got here. The lower part of her
arm is healed but the upper
brake has not unite at all yet
the Dr. said yesterday they would
wait another two weeks than if
it wasint healed would operate
that means the ends of the bone
must be seraped & another peice
of bone set in to make it grow
together, am afraid she will never

really have the use of her^d left
hand as she did before. The first 2
fingers are just cold and she has
to keep working her fingers &
thumb to keep them from becoming
stiff. Her face & hand is awfully
scared. She isn't sure of her
walk. Dr. says that is from such
a blow on the head. She has her
arm in a steel frame and carried
it straight out from the shoulder
has two nasty cuts on her wrist
that isn't healed. Leo's sister
& baby is here doing the house
work - Rachel has a big 8-⁺ some
lbs boy black headed round faced
pug nose. Both seem to be coming
fine, only Rachel is awfully yellow
she said she had quite a easy time
as all had feared for her on
account of her age. Call the boy
Kenneth Herbert. We left Ernie's
a week ago Thursday P.M. he & the

Children stayed the week^{end}³
with Veryl took them back
on Saturday was not so bad
as if Silounee had been there
right along, but still was a lone
some home coming. Mayo Dale
Simpson is with him. he has
the 3 children Edith has the baby
we have Rachel Ann. Russel is
at Grandpa Smiths. guess Veryl
will take the girls through
+ Mr. Mrs. Clark wants Kenneth.
will be better than having them
run the streets, I took all of
Silounees things + packed them
away befor I left. Poor girl its
hard to think she is gone but I
try to relise it is best. her heart
was so bad + she has had to go
through so much the last 2 or
3 yrs. Ernie now is out on pro-
bation, hope it will do him some
good but dad hasint any hopes

for him, he sure seemed to ④
suffer & after she was so bad
she never seemed to forgive
him until the very last then
she would reach her hand for
him to hold when he was by
the bed side. the last few days
she couldnt say much in fact
she never talked to me only
to say mother, but her face would
ways light up when ever
dad would come into the room
one day she asked dad to get
her some ice cream, she was so
poor nothing to her just skin over
the bones, but when they had her
ready for the casket she looked
so much like she did in her
wedding picture we put her
wedding dress on to her and I
put that little pearl pick that had
her F in gold on that dad got her
the time he took the girls to the

To ~~the~~ the state fair ⑤
than Lorain got a hankering
for her mother for mother day
it had the word mother written
across the corner in old rose
& I put that into her hand. There
was lots of flowers. Rachel
Ann picked a handfull of
dandy lions and brought them
in & put in the pretty bed
with mamma, so Edith rapped
them in paper & left them right
in the casket. The M. E. preacher
had charge of the funeral, she was
laid beside Aunt Maud. Dad
ordered a spray for the family
it was red roses & white snap-
dragons was lovely. Well I am here
at Rachels came Saturday about
10 o'clock they brought Rachel about
3 o'clock. she seems to be getting
on quite nicely. baby is a real sweet
little fellow but nothing like Odonna
was.

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Dad + Dempsey + Rachel Ann
is at Helen's they sleep in
the trailer but Helen gets their
meals, shall stay with Rachel
till she is able to be up. Wish
Helen could have her operation
over while we are here so could
be with her. Well I hope you
all keep well and that you
will be able to have a big garden
& good crops this year wont it
be wonderful if you do. Well
write us when you can, so
glad Charles got home and do
hope that Carmilla came and
got him, lots of love from
us all, Mother

[The following letter is from Bertha Rendall, and is probably written to her daughter Mae, since Bertha mentions including a card for her daughter Odonna. Bertha is visiting one daughter (Rachel) who just gave birth, another daughter (Helen) had been in a bad accident, and her oldest daughter (Florence) had just died a couple weeks before.

Any misspellings in this letter are mostly left as is (and italicized), double question marks (??) are inserted where the wording cannot be determined, punctuation and capitalization may be added or omitted to clarify meaning, and bold italicized comments in brackets like this one are inserted to add extra details.]

Kalamazoo, Mich.

May 29 – [19]37

Dear Ones all,

Just a few lines to put in with Odonna's card [**probably referring to her daughter Mae's daughter's upcoming 10th birthday on June 6**].

We got here *Wenesday* P.M. but the boy got here first as he arrived Tuesday A.M. [**referring to her daughter Rachel's son, Kenneth Hebert Jordan, born Tuesday, May 25, 1937**]

Went right up to the hospital to see Rachel as [**her husband**] Cecil came just a little while after we got here. Helen was down town when we got here [**daughter Helen had apparently been in a car accident, and she was in a full body cast for a long time**]. The lower part of her arm is healed but the upper *brake* has not [??] at all yet. The Dr. said yesterday they would wait another two weeks than if it wasn't healed would operate. That means the ends of the bones must be scraped & another piece of bone set in to make it grow together. Am afraid she will never

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really have the use of her left hand as she did *befor*. The first 2 fingers are just cold and she has to keep working her fingers and thumb to keep them from becoming stiff. Her face & hand is awfully *scared* [**scarred**]. She isn't sure of her walk. Dr. says that is from such a blow on the head. She has her arm in a steel *fram* and carried it *stright* out from the shoulder. Has two nasty cuts on her wrist that isn't healed. Leo's [**Helen's husband, William Leo Jordan**] sister & baby is here doing the house work. Rachel has a big 8+ some lbs boy, black headed round faced pug nose. *Bothe* seem to be coming fine, only Rachel is *awfull* yellow. She said she had *quit* a easy time as all had feared for her on account of her age [**34½**]. Call the boy Kenneth Hebert.

We left [**Florence's husband**] Ernie's a week ago Thursday P.M. He and the

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children stayed the weekend with [**Florence's sister**] Veryl. Took them back on Saturday, was not so bad as if Florence had been there right along, but still was a lone some home coming. May and Dale Simpson is with him. He has the 3 children, [**Ernie's sister**] Edith has the baby [**Dean**]. We have [**Florence's daughter**] Rachel Ann [**Bertha more than once refers to Florence's daughter as Rachel Ann. Bertha's own daughter is named Rachel Ann, but Florence's daughter was named Rachel Lucille**]. [**Florence's oldest son**] Russel is at Grandpa Smiths. Guess Veryl will take the girls [**Florence and Cleo**] through [??] and Mr. & Mrs. Clark wants [**Florence's second son**] Kenneth. Will be better than having them run the streets. I took all of Florence's things & packed them away *befor* I left. Poor girl it's hard to think she is gone but I try to *relise* it is best. Her heart was so bad & she has had to go through so much the last 2 or 3 yrs. Ernie now is out on probation [**a previous letter indicated that he was working at keeping sober**], hope it will do him some good but dad hasn't any hopes

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for him. He sure seemed to suffer [??] after she was so bad. She never seemed to forgive him until the very last, *than* she would reach her hand for him to hold when he was by the bed side. The last few days she couldn't say much, in fact she never talked to me only to say mother, but her face would always light up when ever dad [?] would come into the room. One day she asked dad to get her some ice cream. She was so poor, nothing to her just skin over the bones. But when they had her ready for the casket she looked so much like she did in her wedding picture, we put her wedding dress on to her and I put that little pearl pin [?] that had [fine??] gold on that dad got her the time he took the girls to the

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to the state fair. *Than* Lorain [**probably referring to Florence's daughter, Florence Lorraine**] got a *hankkerchief* for her mother for mother day. It had the word mother written *accross* the corner in old rose [?] & I put that into her hand. There was lots of Flowers. Rachel Ann [**again, this is referring to Florence's daughter, Rachel Lucille**] picked a handful of dandy lions and brought them in to put in the pertty [?] bed with mamma, so Edith *raped* [**wrapped**] them in paper & left them right in the casket. The M.E. preacher had charge of the funeral. She was laid beside Aunt Maud [**wife of Alfred Rendall, Florence's dad Alton's brother**]. Dad ordered a spray for the family. It was red roses & white snapdragons. Was lovely. Well I am here at Rachels, came Saturday about 1 oclock, they brought Rachel about 3 oclock. She seems to be getting on quit nicely. Baby is a real sweet little fellow but nothing like Odonna was.

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Dad & [**son**] Dempsy & [**daughter**] Rachel Ann is at Helens. They sleep in the trailer but Helen gets their meals, shall stay with Rachel till she is able to be up [?]. Wish Helen could have her operation over while we are here so could be with her. Well I hope you all keep well and that you will be able to have a big garden and good crops this year. Won't it be wonderful if you do. Well write us when you can. So glad Charles [**Mae's husband Lewis' son from his previous marriage**] got home and do hope that Carmilla came and got him. Lots of love from us all.
Mother