

AIR MAIL



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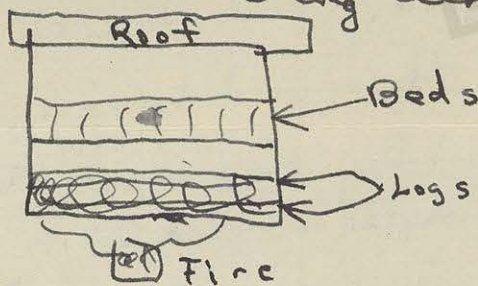
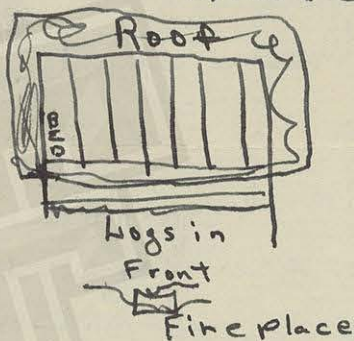
CAMP
SEQUOYAH
WEAVERVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

Sunday, July 15
1951

Dear Folks,

I am nearly dead. We left Sequoyah about 8:30 Wednesday morning. The camp bus broke down on the hill which goes to Weaverville. I was in the Station Wagon which is new so I got to ride into Weaverville. The boys in the camp bus which is the Black Beetle had to walk into Weaverville. When I got there, I went to the car and got clothes to get cleaned. I got enough cleaned so I would have clean clothes at Washington. Then I went to the Drugstore in Weaverville and ate a pint of ice cream. By that time chief had a chartered bus which was supposed to carry us to our starting point the road was real rough steep, and narrow so the bus stopped about 25 miles short of our starting point. It was dinner time by now, so we hiked a mile or so and found a place to eat. That afternoon we hiked about 6 miles to ^{Smoky Mountains} National Park camping ground. A better name would be Smoky Mountain Nat Park. The rats were so bad that I didn't sleep over about 1 hour the whole night. It was terrible. The next morning after we had hiked about 10 minutes, a Park Trail Cleaning Dump Truck came along. The guy was real nice. He carried

us nearly 25 miles and didn't charge us. Taxes paid for it
 so I don't suppose it made any difference. There were
 21 people and the driver in a 1 1/2 ton dump truck along with
 21 packs. We started on the Appalachian Trail at Daven-
 port Gap & hiked to Newfound Gap which is
 supposed to be 30 1/2 miles from Davenport. I think
 a mountain mile on that trail is about 10 miles on a
 Texas road. The second night we spent the night
 at ^{our} Cove Creek Gap which is 15 miles from the starting
 point of the Appalachian Trail. The last 8 miles we
 hiked we didn't have a drop of water. We nearly
 starved for water because those 8 miles were all
 up a ridge mountain in the hot sun. That night
 I caught the cold which is now about to kill me. The
 next day we hiked about 13 miles to Tri Corner
 Gap. There are shelters at each of these points
 on the trail. The shelters have eight thin screen
 wire bunks & look something like this. They



have spring water at each of these places
 too. That night I caught a little more cold.
 I slept in the shelters both nights because
 I won a raffle the first night & Joe let me
 have his bunk the second night. He didn't want
 to sleep in it. The morning of the fourth day
 we hiked 3 miles to Newfound Gap. It
 is a largely visited spot where they have

CAMP
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a large restroom, water, and large lookout spot. It isn't very interesting after having hiked through all that you see from the point. We sat there about an hour and about 12 one of our counselors brother drove up with watermelon. People asked us if we were guides, garbage collectors, tramps, and everything else we might be besides hikers. My hair hadn't been combed in four days and I hadn't shaven in over a week so I guess I should expect the treatment I got. About 3:00 o'clock a camp truck driver picked us up in a new Chevrolet Truck something like Mr. Woods. It had our packs and duffel bags on the bottom and we sat on top. It rained several hours and we got ourselves, our packs, and our duffel wet. We then ate peanut butter and orange marmalade for supper. About 7:00 we went to Cherokee to see the pageant. It was really good, It was over about 11 o'clock. We piled in the bus + started to leave camp in the damp, cold, night air. About 2 o'clock in the night the tarp washed covered the truck

with during the rain caught on fire. We put that out and got to canoe camp about 3 o'clock & got to bed at 3:30. My pack & duffels were all wet. My cold was really bothering me. We got up at 7:00 the next morning & started the days program. We have good food up here and I know we will have a good time. They have six canoes, 1 motorboat, two sailboats, and an aquaplaneing board up here. I spent my money as follows

My mileage is now 45802.
 I will check the other mileage if you don't know it. I forgot where it was until you told me. They are ready to go into Franklin with the mail so I had better close.

- Candy 10¢
- Stamps + Stationery \$1.63
- Candy 15
- Saw 1.00
- Reflector Oven 3.00
- Film + Flashbulbs 2.00
- Jackets 4.00
- Back 17.

Love John

P.S. Dave this letter