

Undated letter from Mary and Patt McHugh to Patt's brother (possibly written in 1968).

Post office Box – 362  
53181.

Dear Tom, Mary, & Michael:

Hope you are well, a letter you sent to Kate Kelly at Christmas 1967 last year was mailed to me in May, of this year, it was an open letter when I received it, I been thinking, about writing to you since that time, but kept putting it off, the family was looking for me, last Christmas but when we go away, we dont tell people where we are going, we leave our forwarding address with the local Post office, and they take care of our mail,

2. and my Brother & sister are longe enough in this country to know that much, I worked part time for Post office, during 2<sup>nd</sup> World War,

Last year Mary and myself went to California to visit Della, we visited with Father Kevin in 1966 & 1967, and Della called me one morning on telephone November 1966 told me she was alone couldn't get out of bed I started off to help her, at 7<sup>15</sup> A. M. same day, rang her door bell and she crawled to the door, after a few minutes and was surprised to see me so soon 4<sup>30</sup> PM distance 575 miles, I could fly to her but I thought it over with Mary & Father Kevin and they told me I would need

3. my car to help, drive her to Hospital & Doctor (etc) it was a big inconvenience for me & for Mary & Kevin, Kevin had to say two (2) Masses, each Sunday, take Mary to Church to his 2<sup>nd</sup> Mass, do the shopping as the Store on Base was one mile away and he had to shop when Store was open, (etc) I spent 8 weeks with Della, two weeks on each visit, traveled 12000 miles, between Yucaipa Los Angeles, and Chicago & St Francis home in Santa-Ana to get her settled there, she chose this home, by herself, because she knew a girl there from Sligo after she was there, a few days she mentioned the meals were

4. not to her liking, at least my Brother John told me so, I can keep writing but I have a suggestion to make,

Della talked about you Tommy, she has lots of money she had me drive her to her attorney, to make a will, she told me she would send some money to each one of you, we both talked it over, and I told her she didnt need all that money and to send \$5000 to \$10000 to each one of you, she agreed, then we purchased a Coffin & liner for same also a head stone for her grave, made me the executor of Will, if she died I would be notified and I would fly out there & take care of Burial (etc) sold her house in Yucaipa, got all cash for it, put the will in

5. a vault, she kept one key & I kept the other key, she told me I was the youngest of the family, I Could take Care of her belongings (etc) divide it equally amongst the family, then she cried & said I will never see you again, & I promised her I would be back in November 1967, so Mary and myself drove out there with intentions of renting

a house near the Beach and we would be together for Winter, it didn't plan out she told me, that she tore the Will, and made

6. a new one, making Patrick Kielty, your Brothers son-in-law Executor of this new Will, the funny part of the whole affair, I wanted to give that amount to each one of you, and I never asked her, for a dime for myself but for my kindness towards her, she gave me a check for \$2000 dollars as a gift I gave \$1000 of it to Eugene and another \$1000 to Patty, I didnt want her money, I tried to help each one of you,

I would like you, to build a house similar to your own, near Heneghans, put in gas or electric heat

7. furnish it and you would have a better income from it, than from your farm,

Visitors like myself Americans British and many others visiting Eire would love to have some place like that to rent just like our motels in this Country, inside plumbing (etc) just write to Della & tell her, you are building this house for Michael & you ask her for \$5- or 10,000 and she will help you, if you dont get it, some one else will.

Tommy, please keep this information to yourself I am trying to help Michael I told my sister Peg about all

8. the money Della has, if you care to contact Peg & perhaps both of you can figure it out I may hurt myself by telling you all this but Della has so many people writing her (etc) that she will forget all of you, (I hope not)

Dont mention that I suggested you building a house keep that a secret, some of the family got more than \$2000 from her, and never did a thing for her, only sweet talk and nice letters,

If I can't do you some good, I will never do you any harm, those are terrible times, God love you all.

Mary & Patt

Transcribed by Margaret Marlow with punctuation, spelling and grammar as in the original.

4 May 2023