

July 23? 1977

(Another Saturday NIGHT)

Dear Linda,

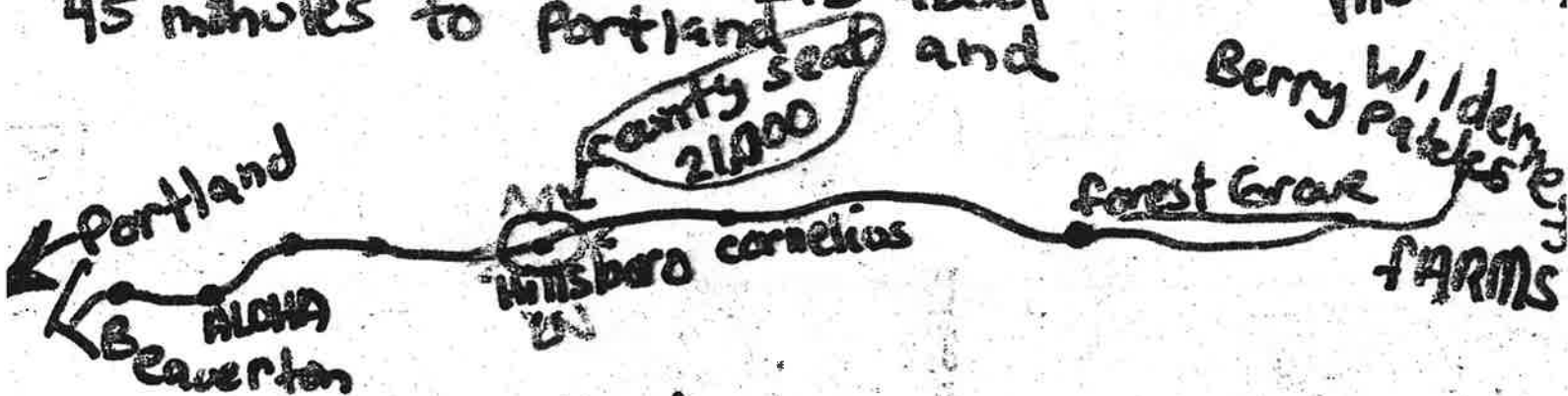
Well Here I am in Tasmania.

Forest Grove is a little University town of 10,500. Pacific University has 1000 students.

After Forest Grove, the biggest town is about 400 pop. - I'm on the edge of civilization. It's about 45 minutes to Portland and

Here is a map...
The Coast
mountain

Berry W. Idem
Patrick's
FARMS



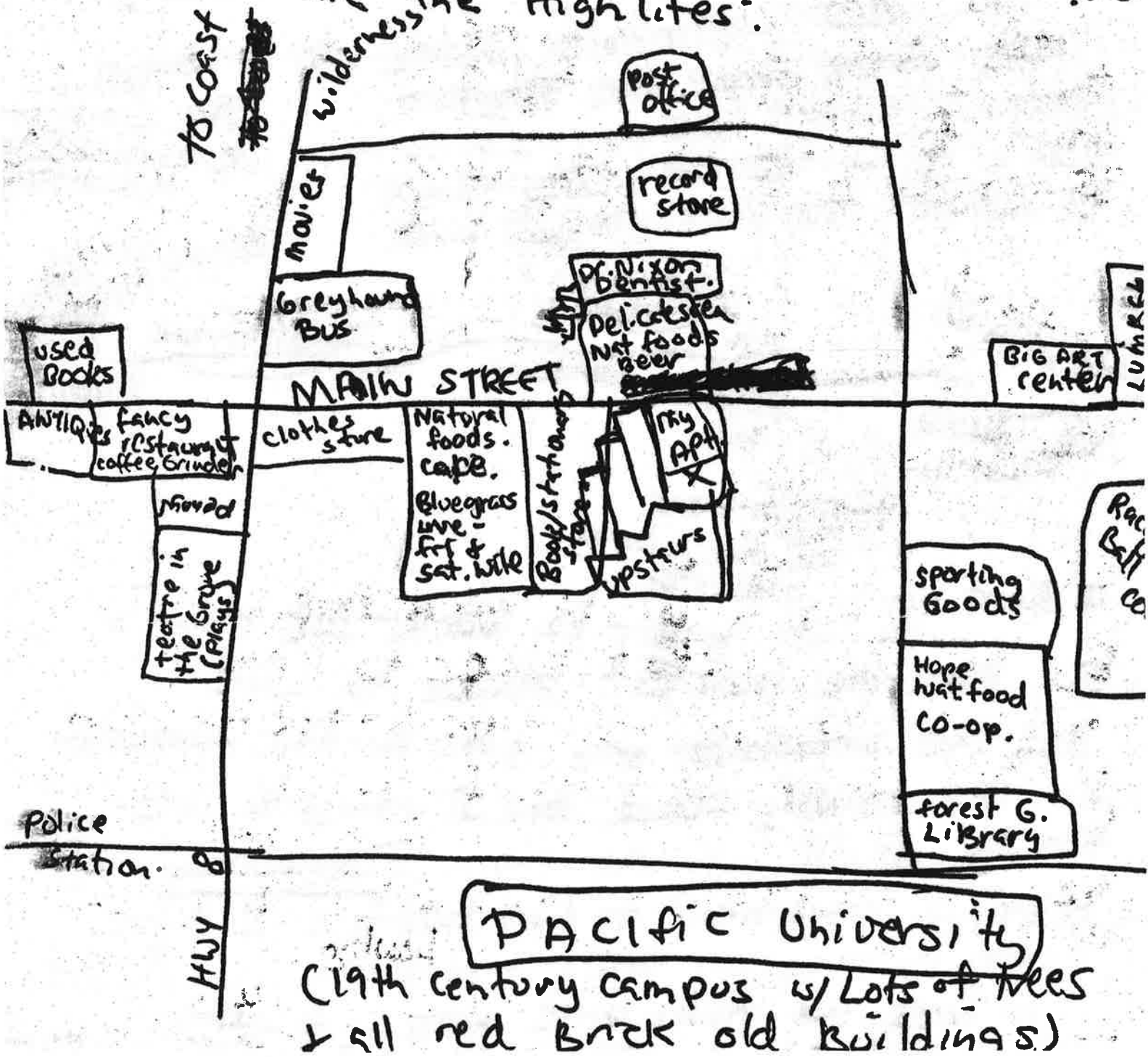
← I work out of the Library here

about 1/2 an hour to work - but this is by far the nearest place to live.

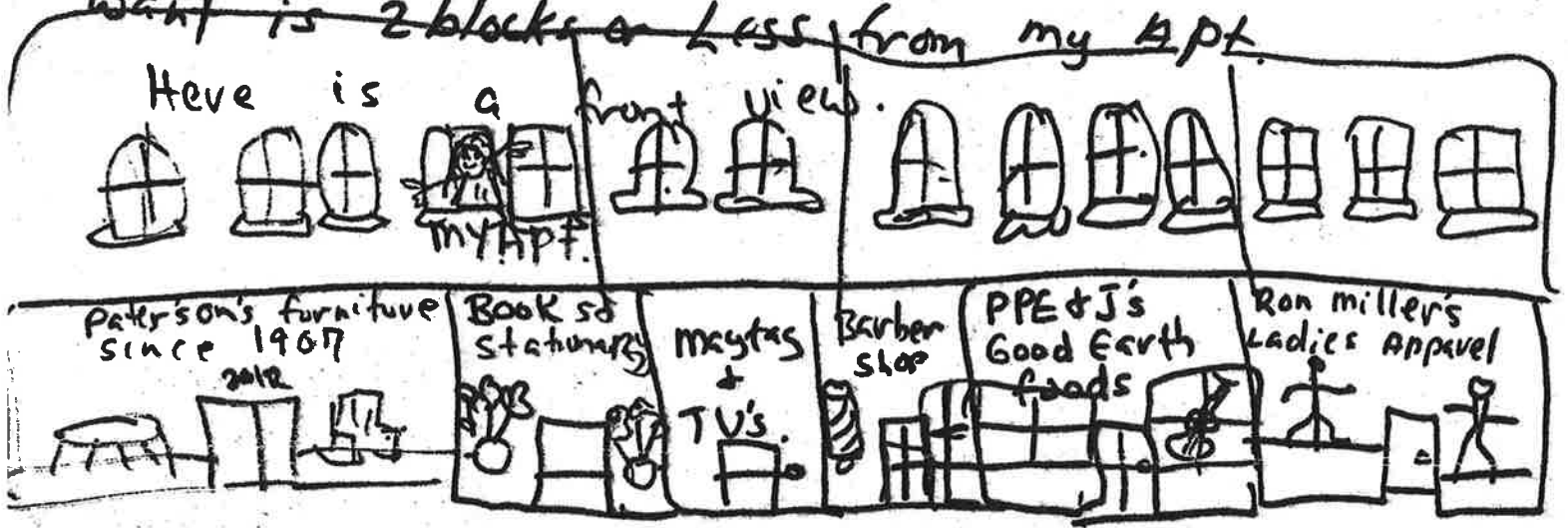
All the students are gone for the summer so it's really dead but I imagine it's pretty dead all the time. Everybody

here is pregnant or has babies. I have never ever seen half the bowling ball-bellies or babies as there are here - a sure

Well I'm sick of pen & ink so I'll switch to an ol' plain pen. Here is another map of Balladtown U.S.A (That's forest Grove's nickname, 'CUZ they have an immense annual festival here of barber shops quartets + stuff like that (it also has the tallest barber pole in the world!!)) These are the Highlites:

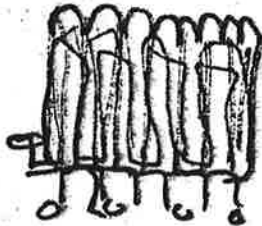


I don't know if you can tell by my shitty map- But everything in the world I could want is 2 blocks or less from my apt.

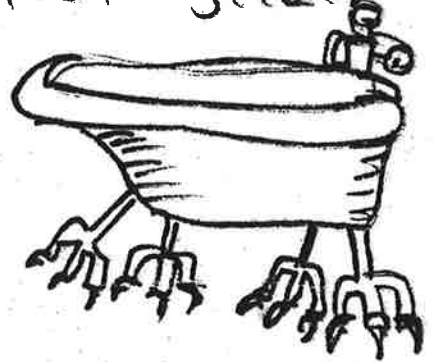


— MAIN STREET —

The Apts I live in are about 70 years old
my heater is one of those old radiator jobs
like this.



AND my Bath tub is an
old claw foot geezer
like this.



I don't have a shower. But the
place is furnished in Antiques -
at least semi-furnished in semi-antiques.

Here is my floor plan.
My closet is
Bigger than my
kitchen & the
refrigerator is in
the bathroom



its basically
a studio apt.

Anyway - you got the picture: Lets see - my job is great - I don't really work just with convalescent hospitals - Its all senior citizens. The last month, we've mostly been going to meetings & getting oriented & planning. I'm ^{compiling} ~~editing~~ a "directory of services directories" & were doing referrals & speeches & preparing a Brochure. It's not like I thought it would be, - its better. We only spend about 30 minutes a day in our home library office. We make our own hours. - Geoff works about 3 hours a day - I work about 5. Our supervisor is 35 and reminds me a helluva a lot of Connie - at least what Connie would be like if she was straight & had kids. Panna is even the same size & smokes long skinny menthols like Connie. she says stuff like "Bagit" & winks like Connie. Its wild.

~~There's a lot of people here, Connie good people~~
~~to do things at the school & the corporation, you know~~
~~the important ones~~ There's 9 Vistas in this county & 40 around Portland and about 400! in Oregon. Its really neat. 99% of the Vistas I've met are really fantastic people & so many of them around is a good support network. And we have a place to stay anywhere in Oregon or Washington. TRAINING was one of the peak experiences of my life. there were 70 of us ~~training~~ training for either Oregon, ~~the~~ Washington, Idaho or ALASKA.

We all had private rooms in downtown Seattle
YMCA equipped with gym, swimming pool etc.

During the day we went to workshops &
meetings & played Volleyball (our group - out of
7 groups - was champion volleyball team of training)

~~At night we went drinking, dancing & sight seeing. We were given money to eat our meals wherever we wanted & the trainers were fantastic.~~

It was like a vacation instead of work.

There weren't any cliques - people went out in giant groups - we'd all stand around in the lobby shouting out where we were going & anybody that wanted would join the group that interested them most.

So, one night I went to a Gay men's Disco, & several nights I went dancing in country western places. Also rode the biggest ferry

I've ever seen to mars & back, went to the space needle, rode the monorail & ate in every restaurant in the world, among other things,

the trainers all partying partied too. It was really something. The Vista's were from everywhere - Hawaii, Alaska, Connecticut, Louisiana. My recruiter

lied; I could be gone anywhere in the US.. or American Samoa, or Virgin Islands or Puerto Rico, if I wanted. But I'm glad I'm in Oregon.

It's beautiful & lush & green & mountains.

and people don't lock their cars & aren't
scared & are really friendly. My VISTA
pay isn't near as bad as I thought it
would be. I got \$166.00 for travel up
here, \$100 relocation allowance, money for
training plus other Bonus money for things
like in-service training. Our base pay
is \$271.00 a month plus \$52 a month
free food stamps. So while I'm not
rich (\$94.00 a month rent) I'm not starving
by any means. Also, there's zillions of
Chicanos up here so I DO get to practice
Spanish. There's lots of migrants for
strawberry, raspberry & cherry harvests which
are going on now. Cucumber harvest is coming
up too. I visited the migrant camps &
it was really shitty & horrible - snakes &
flies & overcrowded - just like the UFW says,
only worse. There's only 2 Mexican
restaurants within 10 miles though - so I'm
undergoing tortilla with drawal. ~~drawal~~

All in all - I really like being a Vista.
I'd like a bigger kitchen & a quieter street & more night life
But basically it's paradise & makes Sacramento
look like the cesspool it is. So how's
carpentry & the crop & the donkeys & life in
General. Any news from those parts?
For all I know California fell in the
sea. & ...

Say Hi to Thavis + Don + Peggy + Cella
& any body else you can think of for me.

My address is -

me

2015 MAIN street #8
Forest Grove, Oregon.

97116

If any body ever comes to Oregon - I've got
room for em. Give my regards to Broadway.

I love,

Linda