

Fri. Oct. 15 - 1954

Dear Dad,

The time has finally come when I can have the pleasure of asking you to be my best man at my marriage to Joyce in December. It is only fitting that you, who have been "the best" as long as I can remember, should continue on in that capacity on this all important day. I know that this request will come as no surprise to you, as I know that there was never any doubt in my mind as to who it would be.

I am looking forward to December with mixed feelings, however the sum of these feelings is the conviction that it is Joyce that I wish to marry - and now. Naturally, as other young men before me in a similar position, I can not help but feel the somewhat appalling responsibility which I am about to assume - and not merely for a while as was the case with many of the other goals to which I have aspired, but forever. One of the factors which make the prospects of this marriage so bright - and there is not doubt in my mind but that they are bright - is that I can rest securely in the knowledge that I have well followed your oft given suggestion to "do the right things". This is the right thing.

My only regret about what will be my marriage ceremony is that there will be no formal part for Mom to play. Convention and Custom seem to have ruled her out. This however is only in form, for she will surely be my "Best Lady", whether she be at my side or seated directly behind, as she has been so unhesitatingly throughout this, the early part of what has been a very wonderful life.

Your son,

Don