

9/14/48

Dear Jerry,

Finally answering your letter & I believe it will clarify all the information you want.

Am enclosing certificate showing Dad's (may he rest in peace) birth entry to N. E. H. School & year of graduation. If I remember correctly Dad attended a school at 3<sup>rd</sup> & Catherine which doesn't exist any more, or a school at 5<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> [and] Lombard St. which he graduated from, before entering High School. At that time, which would take in the years of 1900, we lived at 838 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. You also want to know where we or Dad lived in 1910. If my memory fails me not we lived at 224 Chancellor St., but I think Dad lived in N.Y. with Aunt Fannie (may she rest in peace) at that time. I am not sure now about Dad's appointment to Annapolis to the Navy Academy. I think if you write to Annapolis & ask for a duplicate of Dad's appt. & a duplicate letter from the President at that time commenting or rather [congratulating] him on the appointment. Theodore Roosevelt was president at that time. I think the appt. was either 1906-1907, about that time. Try & I am sure they have the records & they will inform you. You have nothing to lose & much to gain. If I was able to get the H.S. records I am sure you can get the records from the Navy in Annapolis & the records pertaining to that letter.

One more question which I am happy to be able to answer unfaltering. Strange as it seems the name "Fleet" has never had any "sky's" or "witz's". It has been Fleet in Russia from where my parents came from. Fleet in America. My Pop (may he rest in peace also) told us his name was Fleet always & he knows of no other long, short or whatever you wish to call it. From what I know, second names were usually given to you or rather should I say taken from the kind of work one did or character, etc. Especially the refugees that fled from one country to another. The word

“Fleet” means in Jewish “Fled”. The people “Fled”. While I don’t know my father’s history from which country his parents or rather great-grandparents immigrated or fled from, I know that grandma’s great grandparents or maybe one or two generations back were refugees from Spain during the period when the Jews either had to convert to Christianity & change their names or flee, escape to some other country. Probably my father’s side of his family were also refugees & fled some country. However, as far as my father knew his name was Fleet. Fleet in [America] means a group of ships which you know. I hope I made myself clear & answer your question.

I know you will be glad to know that Joe Glynn was on the air, 3 weeks in succession on “Winner Take All” & he won:

A wire recorder  
a record player (phonograph)  
75.00 original suit for Roz  
50.00 [gabardine] water repellent coat for Roz  
Hi red rainboots for Roz  
Amelia Earhart luggage  
Westinghouse *Frigidaire*  
250.00 Bulova wristwatch with 2 diamonds “Yet”  
Baby carriage  
Crib  
Bassinet for baby  
Silver cocktail shakers from a Ritzy N.Y. Jeweler  
Silver cigarette lighter  
Silver cigarette case

We have at least one “guy” that knows all the answers. We are glad he belongs to our family. “Yes?”

I was sorry to read that Ethel is troubled with hay fever. Is there no cure for that? Or hasn’t medical science advanced that far? I hope she is feeling fine again. And how is Susie? She is a little Miss Prim & a little mother’s helper. She must be adorable. She is alert & constantly talking. She will grow up to be very good looking, tall & intelligent. I am sure you both

will be proud of her. How is Mother? Is she in a better frame of mind? Is her health good? It will take a long time, Gerry before she gets over her loss, if ever. I hope she will adjust herself to her new way of life. Her blessings are you, Ruther, & your mates which which will compensate some.

Gerry tell Mother I will write to her soon. Tonight is the 1<sup>st</sup> cool nite. This hot weather tires me out much & I don't have much patience to write to before I get started. After I get started, well you can judge—a 7 page letter isn't to be sneezed at, Gerry. I hope you will pardon the pencil writing errors etc. in this letter. My love to each & everyone of you and a big kiss to little Susie.

Good health & good luck,

From Aunt Sophie

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When typing this from a photocopy of the handwritten letter, I corrected one or two obvious typographical errors and added two or three commas for clarity.  
—Walter Edelberg, November, 2020.