

Thomas H. Wickenden

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THOMAS H WICKENDEN  
548 MEDFORD LEAS  
MEDFORD, N.J.  
08055



New Jersey

Dear Nancy & Jim:

Feb. 20 1976

We have been fascinated with your recent letters, describing the thrills you both have enjoyed in connection with the purchase of your new house and future home - on this event we congratulate you both.

It is a thrill your relatives and friends would like to share, and what better way is there to do this than make a home-warming gift. Not being familiar with Nancy's plans and vision of her new home we hesitate to make a choice by ourselves. A better way seems to be to provide the means of acquiring something that fits in with your plans and decor of your home designed for comfortable and gracious living. Hence this check from Al & Tom to Nancy and Jim is given with much love and Best wishes.

While Dee's eyeright is practically gone and her memory for current events is short we get great pleasure from our Short Hills home which we loved so much, thru memories of family events and the good times we had with our many friends.

May God bless your new home and give you many years to enjoy it.

With fondest love  
Al & Tom



TABOR ACADEMY  
MARION, MASSACHUSETTS  
02738

JAMES W. WICKENDEN  
HEADMASTER

Tuesday night, 9:42pm  
2-24-76

Dear Tom:

What a man you are! What a wonderful person you are! How lucky can this branch, the rather undistinguished branch of the Wickenden tribe be, when he was only 7 years old to have been picked up body and soul and have had the wonderful family of The Thomas Rogers Wickenden take him under their kindly wing and have such a home to be a part of. And there was Dorothy, almost my age, like a sister, and there was Homer, my boyish idol, the singer, the athlete, the cousin who took me to Denison, and I went to Oberlin! And dear Ruth, who had a heart as large as any woman ever had, she was a second mother to me, I loved her, and have never forgotten her. Wasn't I mighty lucky to live in that home at what I now have come to discover to be the most impressive ages that a child can experience, 6-8. And dear Arthur, so clean, neat, very handsome and such a quiet & christian sense of humor, never the raised voice, the easy smile that I shall always remember! And there was Will, he literally kept me together when the Medical school set-up fell apart and he and Marion asked me to live with them for the second half of the first and only year in the Medical school. Will saved my life when he sent me to Loomis, Hotchkiss, Taft and Deerfield in the fateful summer of 1930. Then that wonderful summer in Europe with young Bill and how we had ourselves such times as Ireland, England, Holland, Germany, Italy, and Paris, all for \$2000 for both of us. That was my eye opening experience, London, Munich, Venice, and on and on! Then Deerfield, Mary Dee at Smith. Tom Jr. and Amherst, and in 1937 you and Dee did me the honor of coming to my wedding - something my Dad and I shall forever remember and be so grateful for. Then came your advice to me about stocks, an area where I surely never have had any expertice, but where I did make some wise investments at the right time and under your good advice too! I just let them grow too!

Then came my memorable visits to Short Hills and to your office down on Wall Street. I remember the first time I came to visit you , wasn't it 67 Wall Street? Hardly knowing where Wall Street was, when I stepped out of the train, I hailed a Taxi and calmly and with a bit of mid western sophistication I said, " 67 Wall Street, Please. " Then I watched the money meter ! In those days money was mighty scarce, so that taxi bill still startles me when I recall how simple I was, now it is a laugh!

Then came Tabor and the war years , my introduction to the sea, then boats, then Tabor Boy and the years of cruising when You came along and we did so many Buccaneer cruises together. The trips up and down the coast, Newport, Mystic, The Coast Guard Academy, Nantucket, Marthas Vineyard, Cutty Hunck, and Block Island. Those were the days , weren't they? We were so lucky to have found each other and I was so proud of you as I watched all my Marion friends grow to love and admire you so much. Those trips to Maine, they did open my eyes, and you did seem to enjoy them so much.

And on and on, I just cannot seem to stop, but I must because what I wanted to say at the very start of the letter, that 1000 dollar check in that lovely little envelope just sent Nancy , Meri and me into and well beyond cloud Nine. Tom, that was just wonderful of you and you must know how very grateful we are. This being our first house, Nancy just can't sleep some nights she is so excited. And are we anxious to show it to you and have you spend some time with us. Knowing how expensive Retirement Homes are to occupy , or at least suspecting what it costs, I thank you all the more for The House Warming Gift . Truly Tom, that was just about the finest thing that has happened to us in a long time. Bless you many , many times.

Where did Meri and Nancy go today? Up to a furniture store, but no, they did not find the right sofa. They go tomorrow again, such persistence! but now , they can buy a much better one, and all because of you, you dear man! .

Gotta stop Tom, and when I glance back at what I have said and topics I have never mentioned to anyone before -- what is it? Old age, oh no, it was a chance to tell you how lucky I was and how kind fate has been to bring you into my life , and am I glad!

S'long, Jim.