

BERT - Spring, 1974

She may go anytime now, you know. Then I have no more chauffeur. She's very kind to me. I go over about once a week and she buys me things. Of course I pay for them. With you, I don't even pay. I pay for it, you see. Next week she's going to buy me some apples. (You know, I thought about apples, but I didn't know if you could eat them because of your teeth.) I got in the habit of eating an apple with bread in there. Bread ~~t~~akes the acid out. Same way with oranges. I eat an orange and put bread in and chew it very slowly.

(Have you had lots of visitors?)  
No, not many. ~~New-girls-friends?~~ I have a new girlfriend.  
Oh, you do? Who is it?

See, one night she called and she wanted to stay overnight.  
She's only 18. Being a saintly man, I told her no. You don't  
know Harriet. She's a probation officer. I gave her a note  
about Harriet. You see, Harriet lives in a big house all by  
herself. I told her Harriet would be home and she decided to go home. She has a stepmother and she fights quite often. She had just graduated from school and she had expected congratulations and all that and happiness and they didn't congratulate her and they told her to go to work right away. That made her mad. (Have you seen her since?) Yeah, she came back a couple days later. (Has she worked it out?) She had a parttime job while she was going to school. Now she's got a job. Fulltime. She's a very bright, ~~s~~keptic kid. She doesn't believe any baloney. You know, religion and all that stuff. I like kids like that. You see, they're bright. At that time she came alone and she was in a bad mood. Almost cried. The last time she was over with a girlfriend of hers.

(I'm going to start on my pottery pretty soon.) Oh yeah, you wrote me that. (My father-in-law made me a potter's wheel for Christmas) I see. Judy Farmer did that, too. (She's professional at it.) She's better than you? (Oh, much. Yes.) You haven't even gotten started at it yet? (I've started. I've been doing things that just required slab technique.) Say, how's Judy getting along? (She got a divorce. Her husband remarried. She's got a job.) I see. (One child is with him, three with her) Oh that many? She had one with her one time when she was visiting me?

(I don't think she's ever brought her children up here.) Oh, it might have been you and her and one of your kids. (Maybe we did bring one of her children when she came to stay with me.) She was here with one. How's Millie? (Millie's going to come to see me and we're going to come see you) Is she going to interrogate me, too, with the machine going? (Oh, let me show you the machine.) Have you got it with you? (Yeah. Oh, Cindy's been taping us, I didn't realize. . .) END OF TAPE, BECAUSE BERT WAS INTIMIDATED BY IT.