

10-6-75

Ms. Geraldine Rupke
115 Oshawa Blvd. N.
Oshawa, Ontario L1G5S4
Canada

Dear Ms. Rupke:

Angus Crites II took the liberty of forwarding to me a copy of your letter to him of August 11, 1975. He did this because I was a very dear friend of your uncle and, indeed, am presently doing research for a book that I plan to write about him. I have tape recorded many interviews with his friends over the past year and have a couple of tape recordings of Bert, one done only a week before his death. I promised him before he died that I would write this book and it is a promise I must keep because he was a very special person to me, a unique and marvelous human being.

One of the gaps in my knowledge of Bert was regarding his family. He did tell me once that he was "the black sheep of the family," but little else. Any information that you could give me about Bert's early years, his childhood, his family, what he was like at that time of his life, would be most gratefully received. And knowing that you have many questions about him I would gladly respond with answers from my experience having Bert as a friend for ten years. I would especially be delighted to obtain pictures from his early years and would be more than happy to reimburse you for reproduction expense if any are available and you or your other family members would be willing to share them with me.

The book I project about Bert is along the lines of the format of the Sierra Club book, *ON THE LOOSE*, a book of photographs and vignettes of his life, his philosophy, his marvelous sense of humor, and his astute intelligence, along with his enviable simplicity in a very complex world. I envision it as a positive book, one that will make one feel richer for having glimpsed this fine human being when one closes the book. I hope for it to be a tribute to Bert, but true to reality; I want it to portray his humor as well as his pathos, his simplicity as well as his complexity, his humility as well as his arrogance. Less than the truth he would want to have nothing to do with.

I am enclosing a list of questions that I have sent to many people I have written to about Bert. If you can supply the answers to any of the questions I will be very grateful and I will certainly attempt, in return, to answer any questions you may wish to ask to which I have the answers.

Most sincerely,