

GEO. N. AYRES
PRESIDENT

Central Life Assurance Society

MUTUAL

DES MOINES, IOWA

OFFICE OF
POLLARD CALDWELL, GENERAL AGENT
208 INSURANCE BUILDING
PHONE 5930

TOPEKA, KANSAS

August 18, 1934

Mrs Mary Belle Auchard,
1103 Tenth Street,
Clay Center, Kansas

Dear Mrs Auchard:

I am pleased to advise you that today I received the completed papers from the doctor and the undertaker in Boulder City and am immediately sending them to Des Moines. Your check should be back here about August 27th and I will immediately forward it to you.

I am very sorry it took so long to complete this but you know I had to wait for the information as to who the undertaker was and then after sending the papers to him it looked like he took forever to send them back. I assure you I have done everything possible to speed this up.

Yours very truly,

Pollard Caldwell

General Agent.

RETURN IN FIVE DAYS TO
POLLARD CALDWELL

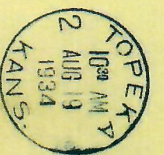
GENERAL AGENT

CENTRAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

(MUTUAL)

208 INSURANCE BUILDING

TOPEKA, KANSAS



Mrs Mary Belle Auchard

1103 Tenth Street

Clay Center

Kansas

John H. H. H. H.
915 Dexter St.,
Clay Center, Kansas.

70 236256-



Mrs. M. B. Auchard,

131 Foster St.,

Waterloo,

Iowa



1578

40 Alvin Hedlund

GEO. N. AYRES
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Central Life Assurance Society

MUTUAL

DES MOINES, IOWA

OFFICE OF
POLLARD CALDWELL, GENERAL AGENT
208 INSURANCE BUILDING
PHONE 5930

TOPEKA, KANSAS

August 22, 1934

Mr. H. N. Tuggle,
Clay Center, Kansas

My dear Mr. Tuggle:

You are hereby appointed my agent in the matter of delivering the enclosed check to Mrs Auchard, so that time may be saved in getting it to her, for it will be impossible for me to come up again until next week. Here's what you must do--before delivering check to her she MUST give you the policy--that's all. You hold it at the store for me and I will pick it up next week.

You will note the check is for \$968.12, as the premium on your wife's policy for \$31.88, was deducted as per Mrs Auchard's written request. I am sending herewith the policy and will you please have Mrs Tuggle sign the white policy receipt and I will pick it up when I get the Auchard policy from you.

I trust you do not mind taking care of these small details. I felt you wouldn't since it would speed up the time of Mrs Auchard getting the money.

Best regards and will be seeing you next week.

Yours very truly,

Pollard Caldwell

General Agent.

27-AUG-58
Venice, Calif.



Mrs. M. B. Auchard,
1103 Tenth St.
Clay Center, Kansas.

Mr. and Mrs.

Dwight Auchard

announce the birth of
Dwight Lloyd
Donald LeRoy

on Aug 9, 1933.
6 lbs. 10 oz.
weight 7 lbs. 1 oz.



Dear Mother,

Las Vegas
Nevada
June 2 '03

Victor will be buried in Clay Center, his hometown. His body is now on the train, in a fine cedar casket.

Victor's wife Norma is all heart-broken & unstrung. Perhaps you could help her. She is now on her way home leaving Las Vegas on the 5:30 A.M. train Tuesday morning ^{the So. Pacific}. She should reach Clay Center on Thursday but you could find out just ^{from} what train ^{for the agent} she changes trains at Junction City. The casket is on the train with her & she has telegraphed the Swenson mortuary to meet the train.

We would have gone with her

² but we haven't the money. We sent
a dollar for flowers; by Norma - it is
from Ralph as well as Frances & I.
That's all we or anyone can do.

Victor was hit by a falling form
at 12:45 P. M. Sunday, dying instantly
without suffering.

The casket will not be opened in
Clay Center.

They say Victor was in extra good
humor Sun. morning, leaving Norma
with a laugh & a smile & joked with the
men on the way to work; so, he at least died
happy.

Your loving son,

Dwight

27, Ave. 55,

Venice, Calif.

Clay Center, Kansas.
Aug 24th, 1934.

Dear Mother:

We received this letter from
Mr. Cauldwell the very same morning you
left, enclosing a check for you, \$968.12.
You notice he says you must give us the
policy before we can give you this check.
If you have the policy with you, you had best
send it by registered mail to us, or if it
is here in some bank tell us where to get it.
We can then send this check to you by
registered mail.

It sure is cold this morning. We had
to have some fire to take the chill off.

Hope you folks had a good trip.
Shall expect to hear from you right away
about the policy.

Lots of love from all of us,

Gertrude

Clay Center, Kansas
Aug 29, 1934.

Dear Mother:

We just received your registered letter a few minutes ago, and we are mailing your check right away. Noble hasn't left for work yet and he will mail it on his way so that you will get it right away.

The kids are all O.K. so far as I know. It has been cool the past several days. I may get some peaches to can today. They are so high, ^{\$}2.48 a bushel, that we have hesitated about buying them.

Beatrice wants me to get her school books soon so she can gloat over them.

Well, will ~~close~~ for this time & mail this.
Love to Harlan, Lucy & Alvin & lots for yourself.

Gertrude

P.S. Notice that you are requested to endorse ^{the check} exactly as drawn.

27 Ave 55 Venice, Calif.
July 1, 1934.

Dear Mother,

I have had no heart to do anything these days. In the midst of our sorrow tho, there is the comforting thought and knowledge that Victor was a good true Christian and is in a far better world than this. It is hard to understand how the call for him came so suddenly and at the glory of his young manhood but it must be the providence ruling over us had need of him in the higher courts of that spiritual world which we in this life cannot understand. It seems to me he lives and thinks and works and knows

4.
All we can do now is to lead
kind and helpful lives, all the
time that when our time comes
we may be worthy to be in the
beautiful realm where his soul
resides.

I wanted so much to be there
last Friday but could not.

Your loving son
Ralph.

what we are doing here, that feeling is very strong with me. It takes a lot of faith at a time like this but Mother dear I am so glad that I do have a faith based not only on the teachings of my youth but the general belief of the greatest minds of all times and countries as well as the latest discoveries of our modern world.

Norma was completely broken hearted poor child but she was brave very brave thru her tears, those last sad days in Las Vegas. She needed all the love and kindness in the world at this time.

It seems Victor could have saved himself but others would have been killed. He would have been a cripple with no legs. He really gave himself for others. "What more can a man do than give his life for another."

The companies building Boulder Dam are to blame for the accident. They failed to provide the proper kind of equipment and safety devices. And Victor was always volunteering to go into places none of the other men would go. He was afraid of nothing. He was not afraid of death, as he told me many times. He said it was only a change and he hoped to go while in his greatest strength and manhood. And he meant it.

Boulder City, Nevada.
Apr. 25. 1934.

Dear Mother Ancherd:

We received the lovely quilt. I sure think it is pretty. I've never seen one of its kind before. Thank you for it. It surely will come in handy.

We received a card from Frances and Dan. Vic told them he was married. But he never told them who to. She wanted to surprise Frances.

Vic and I are figuring on moving into a house. We've been living in an apartment. But I want it so I can have a garden and some flowers of my own. The house won't cost so much either, and we'll have a lot more room.

I sure do like Nevada it is so different from any place I've ever been. I've been going in swimming nearly every day.

I'm going out to Boulder today to do some shopping. I have to go to sales. Vic sure laughs at me women folks for looking for bargains.

The close with love. and hoping to hear from you soon.

Vic & Norma.

Las Vegas, Nevada
May 25, 1934.

Dear Mother:

Norma and I still live in Las Vegas but we have moved from the two room apartment to a three room house.

Everything surely must look nice in Kansas with blossoms and green things the way you describe them. It is much different than here on the desert. Greasewood is about all that adorns the sand in these parts excepting where there is water. Where there is water almost anything will grow. There are several artesian wells around Las Vegas. In fact there is one right at

the corner of our house which supplies us and the neighboring houses with water.

Have the other three hens hatched out any baby chicks yet?

Norma is feeling quite fussy this evening. She is tap dancing all around me while I am sitting out on the porch writing this letter. A little while ago she gave me a scathing bawling out for tearing everything out of a trunk to find a dictionary. And I was ordered to put everything back in place just as it was! Some boss! She is very pretty and agreeable most of the time though. She is a very good housekeeper too.

How ~~is~~ everyone? ^{Send Ref.}
Send my mail to Las Vegas. It is more convenient to get it there.
Love, Vic.

Boulder City, Nevada,
Jan. 5, 1934,

Dear Mother:

I received your New Year's Greeting a few days ago. We worked New Years Night the same as usual so naturally I saw New Year's in - while at work on the job.

Kansas is still dry isn't it? Nevada always was far from dry but ~~not~~ liquor is sold openly over the bar in quite a number of saloons in Las Vegas and several road houses between Boulder City and Las Vegas. However nothing but beer is sold in Boulder City - no whiskey.

If the highway no. 40 goes through

our back yard with the old
road remain too, or will it
be closed up? Undoubtedly
it will be left open for the
convenience of Nichols, ~~then~~
whoever lives in the Camel
place, etc. The new road
won't help your inside
lots much though as ~~it~~
they will still be isolated from
it by a strip of ~~Independence~~
~~& Adams~~ ~~Charges~~, ~~and~~

There was a big flood in
La. A. causing lots of damage
but from the account in the
paper I believe no one in
the section where Dan lives
was drowned. I haven't heard
from Dan & Ralph since the
flood though.

I received a letter from Norma a few days ago. She's staying with the Dr. Norton family in Green, Kansas & is pleased with conditions there. Love, M. L.

Boulder City, Nevada,
Jan. 29, 1934.

Dear Mother:

I am working days now and sleeping nights. The crew I was working with on "graveyard" was changed over to day shift. However working in the tunnels it is still just as dark in the day time as it was at night when we worked nights. We still work by electric light. But we sleep at the same time most people do.

The picture of a very small portion of Boulder Dam that you ~~poached~~ clipped from a paper must have been printed in a Republican paper because it is labeled "Hoover" Dam and the ~~text~~ ^{with} matter states that to the West ~~it~~ ^{which} always he known by

its original name, Hoover Dam.
That is about the most comical
statement I have heard for a
long time. Here in the West
it is practically forgotten that
Hoover ever existed and the
dam is seldom ever referred
to by any other ^{than Boulder Dam} name unless
it is with a tinge of sarcasm
that someone endeavors to
be witty and calls it "Hoover
Dam". The paper was correct
in stating that the work on the
dam is about two years ahead of
schedule, however.

In a letter from Dwight he
said that they weren't bothered by
the flood but that the tent in
which Ralph lived (about a mile
away, I guess) had about 4 ft. of water
in it and he stayed with them until

the flood subsided. Dwight seems to be considering the fishing business again but if he would come here, now he would be quite sure of a job as the employment office in Las Vegas has been hiring every carpenter who applied of late, I understand, and the men did not have to wait more than a day or two for their jobs either. In my last few letters to Dan I have told him that it was a good time to come if he wanted a job but he doesn't seem inclined to do so. Work is just commencing on the power house now. This is a huge undertaking in itself.

I haven't heard from Virgil for over a year, I guess. I imagine his profession and his added social

(church) duties keeps him pretty busy. I doubt if his collections have improved much as a result of his religious affiliations though. It is probably best for the kids though to get some of the helpful thoughts offered by Sunday school. I would like to see the children now. Maurine and Arlene must be nearly grown now.

In a letter from Norma she states that she is with her father in Kansas City now. She also says she has been released by the state. If Norma comes out here we may get married soon. If she doesn't it may be several months before we get married.

Love,

Victor Ruchard.

Boulder City, Nevada

Aug. 8, 1933

Dear Mother:

When I first went to work here it was very hot - about 120° F in the middle of the day & warm enough to sleep with nothing for covering at night. However the past two weeks it has been considerably cooler. A blanket is quite welcome at night, too.

I received the letter you forwarded from the Illinois Life. The Illinois Life receiver has entered into a contract with the Central Life Assurance Society (Mutual).

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According to the terms of the contract I believe the net equity of my policy less 60% thereof shall be used by the Company as a single premium to purchase term insurance as of Nov. 28, 1932 at ~~the~~ my nearest birthday for the amount of my policy. In other words I shall probably get a \$1,000 paid-up life insurance policy good for a very short period of time. Unless I get killed in time to benefit from the arrangement it looks like my life insurance investments were poor ones.

I received a paper from Bess (I believe) telling about Cup's, Sam Price's, etc. election to public office. Very interesting. Good picture of Roy. Bob was here a week, then headed back for Kansas. He had visited many relatives en route on his journey. Love,
Victor Auchard.

Boulder City, Nev.
April 10, 1934.

Dear Mother:

March 29 Norma and I were married. We are living in a two room apartment in Las Vegas but I still have my post office box 814 at Boulder City. I ride to and from Boulder City with some other men who work there.

(the notorious outlaw)
Dillinger is reported to be in this part of the country and the police are very much on the lookout for him.

Norma enjoys it very much out here but she seems to notice the heat much more than

I do. Summer is nearly here. The temperature was 95° F. today.

~~Is~~ it still wintery in Kansas or is it warming up there too?

In Dan's last letter Dan said Frances was sick in the hospital with "Pilon's", an infected condition of the kidneys. He doesn't seem to think he will come here when she is well as the heat is objectionable but he may go to a home being commenced in Oregon.

Please tell the rest about our marriage as I hardly have time to write to everyone right now.

Love,
Victor Richard

Boulder City, Nevada.
July 12, 1933.

Dear Mother:

Today I put in my fourth day working as a carpenter at Boulder Dam. Carpenter's wages are \$5⁶⁰ a day. Board and room costs \$1⁶⁰ a day. Each man has a private room, air cooled, about 7 ft. by 10 ft. by 8 ft. 6 in. high with one regular full sized house window.

These rooms are in big two story dormitories. The dormitories also contain wash rooms, showers, and toilets. In the wash rooms there is hot water, cold water, and very cold drinking water. Board is good. You

- 2 -

breakfast we have oat
meal, cream, milk, butter,
bread, toast, biscuits,
oranges, eggs, ham or bacon,
hot cakes, jelly, syrup,
coffee, water, salt, pepper,
prepared breakfast foods,
some kind of fruit such
as cooked apricots or figs, etc.

We take lunches with
us to work to eat at
noon. We can either
take lunches already
made up by the boarding
outfit or we can walk
along a big line of about
ten different kinds of
sandwiches, oranges, pie,
cake, pickles, and some-
times fresh tomatoes and
fill a pasteboard box which
we pick up at the first
of the line.

In the evening we have

meat, potatoes, bread,
~~the~~ sliced tomatoes sometimes,
salad, corn, beans, macaroni
sometimes, sweet potatoes
sometimes, jelly, cake, cookies,
jelly rolls or some other kind
of rolls, milk coffee, ice
tea or lemonade, water,
salt, pepper, butter, and
more ice cream than
we can eat (every night).

If any more notices or
offers come from the
Mutual Benefit Health
& Accident Association
please send them to
me as it might be
a good idea for me to
reinstate my accident
policy while I am working
here.

Have you heard anything
more about the ~~Albion~~ ^{Albion}
Life Insurance Co?

I got some cards from

~~from~~ Robert Rhea Auchard
a few days ago saying
that he was on his
way to California, riding
the freight. I was in
Las Vegas at the time
and they were forwarded
to me by Dan. I suppose
Bob is probably in Venice
now but I haven't
heard from him since
he reached there. I
don't know if Dad knows
he came or if he ran
off. So if it seems
that Dad might not
know of his whereabouts
perhaps it would be
well to keep the
matter quiet until
I receive further
word from Bob.

I hope everyone is
well.

Love,
Vic Auchard.

Boulder City, Nevada.

March, 14, 1934.

Dear Mother:

It is quite warm here in the day time now but cold at night. Nearly everyone has a cold and there are a few cases of scarlet fever, too. One of the doctors at the company hospital thought maybe I had it but after 4 doctors consulted with each other & each had looked down my throat they decided it was just tonsillitis. I have been laying off from work a few days trying to cure my cold. I feel pretty good now but my voice is so hoarse I can barely speak above a whisper. That's bad in

-2-

the mess hall because a fellow needs to holler and make himself heard if he expects to have anything passed to him for him to eat (provided what he wants isn't within arm's reach). I manage to get by though by whispering to the man nearest to me and asking him to shout for me.

I suppose sickness is still quite prevalent in Kansas too isn't it?

Have you had any more snow storms? Spring ought to be pretty well under way now I should think. I was unable to roll a single snow ball here this year due to the absence of

snow, although I understand³ that some winters there are snow storms here.

Yes, a law providing for a pension for people over 65 would be very good. Do you know whether the bill was passed or not?

Dwight writes as though he might come here to work soon. He will probably store his boat some where.

Yes a veterans licence permitting Ralph to sell in the entire county no doubt helps considerably. However there are many other fish sellers in the county and the rising and setting of the sun no doubt prevents him from making an excessive number of daily calls anyway. Love,
Victor Ancharof.

Boulder City, Nevada
Feb. 17, 1934.

Dear Mother:

I believe I told you in my last letter that I am working days now. At any rate I am working days now.

Yesterday I received a raise. My salary is \$6.00 a day instead of \$5.50. Only a few of the carpenters here have this \$6.00 rating. \$6.00 is supposed to be big money on this job. However all the other jobs I have worked on have paid that much or more for regular carpenters pay. ~~The~~ Expenses are much greater on this job too - high board, many tools lost or stolen, greater opportunity for spending money (living right in a regular town), etc.

On other jobs I have worked

on the men cleaned up but little when off shift unless they were going to town or something of that sort. But on this job nearly all the men take a shower and ~~and~~ dress up immediately upon getting off shift. To see them around town you would hardly guess them to be working men. A man in working clothes in Boulder City is a rare sight except when getting ready to go on shift or coming home from work.

Except for a few cold nights when I was working graveyard the winter here has been very mild, too. Warm weather seems to be coming again.

I hope Donald & Nola got over the mumps alright and everyone is well.

Love,

Victor Ruchard.

Boulder City, Nev.

Aug. 24, 1933.

Dear Mother:

\$1,500,000 is a lot of money
is a lot of money. I suppose
the forgers would not take
such a chance for anything
but a big sum.

I received a letter from
Dan saying that one of the
babes, Dwight Lloyd, the
oldest, died on the eighth
day, from an enlarged thymus
gland which didn't shrink.
Donald Leroy is doing well and
is strong and healthy.

Has Norma gone just for
a visit or has she left for
good? Why has she left and
where has she gone to?
Is she married or single?

Love,

Victor A. Clark.

Boulder City, Nevada,
Sept. 26, 1933.

Dear Mother:

I suppose Fall is approaching in Kansas. It is still summer here but it is not so hot as it was two months ago by quite a bit.

I don't know where the thymus gland is located. I was wondering about that, too.

I guess Dan is thinking about suing the hospital for negligence in regard to the baby that died.

It is hard to realize that Nola and Marian are in the seventh and sixth grades already. They'll be grown up before I know it. Dorothy could hardly be

married again as she has not divorced from Ralph so far as I know. I really don't know where she is or anything in regard

to her now though. I haven't
been informed concerning her
or the children since I left
the homestead.

Yes, I got an application blank
from the Journal Post for accident
insurance. I don't believe
their insurance is what I
want though. I believe I
really should reinstate my
policy with the Mutual
Benefit Health & Accident
Association at Omaha, Nebraska
though. It costs considerable
but offers the kind of protection
I want. It has proved a
paying proposition in the past.
I have collected more from
them than I have paid out
to them. If they ever send
me another request to reinstate
I believe I will. I understand
that Nevada Compensation laws
are very poor.

I would like to get in touch with
Norma again but don't know how to
do it.

Love,
Victor Richard.

- 1 -
Boulder City, Nev.

Nov. 28, 1933.

Dear Mother:

It is raining here today. But rain doesn't bother me as I sleep in the day time and work inside of tunnels at night. I have an alarm clock to wake me up at the right time.

The work at Huntrees Park does pay good wages for that part of the country considering hard times and everything. Work on the dams here ranges from 50¢ an hour up.

I'm not sure but I think probably the bees are all dead. Sleeping in the day time I do very little writing. I get way behind in my correspondence. I haven't

answered Bob's letter which I got a considerable time ago. I find very little time to do anything except sleep, eat, and work. Even at that I don't think I get any too much sleep. It seems impossible for daytime sleeping to replace night sleeping. The three hours sleep I get between 6:30 or 7:00 P.M. and about 9:45 P.M. does me more good than all the sleep I get during the day. In fact my daytime sleep can hardly be considered sleep. It is more like ^{intermittant} restless dozing. I believe it would probably take several generations to develop a race of people who could successfully turn nature around and live like owls.

No, it doesn't get cold enough to stop work here in the winter time. But each cold snap feels very cold to us ~~the~~ who have lived here in the summer probably because our blood is thin and unprepared for it, I guess. The climate in general is somewhat like Arizona climate,

How are you spending Thanksgiving? I suppose we will have some turkeys, however I do not know that we will.

How are Lucy and Albin & baby getting along now? Is Albin working? What is their address?

I don't believe will have any time off for Thanksgiving but I believe we will have two days off for Christmas.

There are very few girls out here that I care for. The people here are the biggest chisellers ^{liars, crooks, etc} I have ever run across and the girls are nearly all typical gold diggers. In fact about the only commendable attribute I can give Nevada people credit for is that they allow everyone to live nearly as they please unmolested so long as they tend to their own business. I have never heard from my insurance although I believe I should get some notification of a certain amount of paid up insurance. Love,
Victor Auchard.

Boulder City, Nev.,
Oct. 2, 1933.
Aug.

Dear Mother:

I should have written sooner. I suppose you wonder what has become of me.

I'm working nights now, from 11:30 P.M. 'til 7:30 A.M., & it seems difficult to get sufficient sleep sleeping days.

I'm sorry the First Nat'l Bank went broke. Guess it's just as well I'm not still working for it.

Are you all well?

Is Norma back in the Orphan's home at Hutchinson, Kans or somewhere else? How do you know she knows my address? What is her address?

I'll try to write more next time. Perhaps I'll not be so sleepy then.

Love,
Victor Anchoed.

Las Vegas, Nev.
July 6, 1933.

Dear Mother:

I expect to be working at Hoover dam in a few days. Quite a few carpenters are being hired lately. I put in my application and will wait until my turn comes which I don't expect to be long as the weather is getting hot & work on the dam is commencing in earnest.

I received a leave of absence from my homestead permitting me to be away from it til July 1, 1934.

Las Vegas is practically wide open in every form of evil, gambling, drinking, prostitution. In fact I guess it is nationally famous

as a sporting town although
it is really a small town
in the midst of a hot cactus
covered desert.

The employment office
is here in Las Vegas
but the dam is about
thirty miles away and
the construction outfit
has built a fair sized
town, Boulder City, 22 miles from Las Vegas, I think
own. It seems to be quite
a nice town. The men are
hauled in big transport
trucks back and forth from
Boulder City to the dam.
Each man has an air
cooled room of his own.
However I understand that
board ^{rooms} cost about \$1.65 a
day and it is compulsory to
board with the boarding company.
over
Victor Archard.

1416 East Pierce Street,
Phoenix, Arizona.
Feb. 3, 1928.

Dear Mother & Sister:

You were right I am not working on the Coolidge Dam now. There was a big layoff at the Dam the ^{25th} 26th of Jan. I got laid off the 26th. along with practically all of the dams working force. They had to practically shut down because they can't get sufficient gravel & the dam has got to the stage where great deal of rigging ^{by the riggers} must be done before much further progress can be made. Dan quit & he & I came here to Phoenix where Ralph & his family are living. We intend to look up some jobs close to here which are going on, but we will probably wait for a word on Dan's knee (which he got just after leaving the Dam) to get better. I certainly hope Alvin enjoys his work at Sweeney's & gets a job.

Will Gertrude be able to hear out of

the ear in which the ear drum broke?
How is her other ear + is it getting along
now? I certainly hope it gets well. Will
she have to wear some sort of apparatus
over the other ear. Are Roy & Alice
both well now? How is Nola? It certainly
sounds like Nola alright the way she
worried over Alice. I even have a clear
mental picture of her + her actions & sayings. I'd like to see her + the rest
of my nieces + nephews. Violet
+ Florence + Junior are all well & have
the same appearance, character, habits,
etc. as they had when in Clay Center.

I am too far from the mountains
to see them now but I guess
there is snow on them, alright. It rained
here in Phoenix last night, but in
general the climate is fine + as near
ideal as it is possible to get it I guess.

I am having a new camera & we are
sending some pictures with this
letter.

Your loving son & brother,
Victor Archard.

Ernest
Violet +
Junior.
Violet is
Phoenix, Junior
is better
looking.
Connection