May 1, 1956

My dear Ron,

What a strenuous winter I've had the past few weeks? I feel almost as if I were the little man who wasn't there at all. The job I took on last October has been full of surprises and crises! It fell to my lot to close out a juicy contract a fort operator had with the government that had several interested officers pining the way and wherefore. The contract had several retired Naval Officers, including a grave yard Admiral, who had influence. One lucky break came for me when quite independently of my
evaluation that the project was not sound, that work was being duplicated in the Navy etc, the Naval auditors found this accounts weren't quite in order! You can imagine with that coming into the open the pressure was taken off of me. Quite far removed, wouldn't you say, from design & experiments?

I have been lucky in finding two young men who are both very promising to build out my staff. Admiral duties also are a bit arduous. My job with the selling of the Admiral is far from being completed.

A little over a month ago, my dear little mother left us. She had had such a full satisfying life but of course one is never quite...
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ready to have a long one here.
In some ways she seems nearer to me than the last few months. I am so glad
I spent Christmas in Colorado
spring with her. We had
a happy time. She was so
well and gay. We had gotten
her a new hearing aid which
made such a difference—she
even heard the Christmas
day on the radio.
I wish you might see
my garden now. Very few
woods, but many tulips,
Canapes, boxwoods etc.
My Italian climbing rose
and many large buds.

Had lunch with Jack Y.
and Riley and Bill Mabery.
I'm going to think something
of the two latter should be done to
create a chummy atmosphere
between ASF and F/SGC. Jack and I feel working at the Naval Cen.
is better.

Is the new book off the press yet? We've been anxiously watching for it. Oliver and Boyd are of course the publishers. Jack has also been asking me about it.

Del and I have had our show on the road again. We gave it the first of the month at Rochester, N.Y. for ASF and F/SGC. Then Thurs. of last week at the Army Chennical Centre, Md. and I believe we had the best reaction there of all. That was the 15-in. Performance! Competing with Oklahoma.

Please be kind and write soon, for a while things were going so much worse that everything could be very successful. Let me know about the book date.

As always Besse.