

Her Majesty's Manifesto

Brandon, Frankie Ann, and Logan—the only “Smythes”,

(1) Several changes have precipitated this letter:

My health and age.

Walter's marriage into the family and his visit with Brandon.

Logan's 21st birthday.

Andrew's death leaving me in charge of the estate.

Your refusal to forgive me and the entire family despite my repeated requests.

The need for changes in the wills made by Andrew and me.

The need to protect Hazel as our executrix.

(2) This probably will be a somewhat rambling letter since it covers many of my concerns. You always seem to have a female “target”. Those of which I am aware are, first, Bev's sisters, next, Julie, then me; and I fear that Hazel will be next after my death. I am currently undergoing some tests on irregularities of my heart but expect positive results. However, I am 86 and will not live here forever. I would like to protect Hazel, if possible.

(3) I have made changes to my will; these are not Hazel's ideas but mine. They also are not the result of my marriage to Walter since we have very specific prenuptial agreements—actual legal documents—that he does not inherit anything from my estate nor I from his. These facts are important because I do not want you to have anyone in the family to blame. I have made a new will with the help of a lawyer. You would not have liked the will Andrew and I made; and you probably won't like the changes I have made either. Maybe you will view the changes as punitive, and maybe they are but our relationship could not be any worse.

(4) Andrew hoped to see you before he died. He prayed and cried about that. You chose not to come until after his death—perhaps believing that he was not really going to die. I truly think that you could not have been so cruel if you had believed that he would die. You are his only son, and he never did anything but good for you.

(5) Andrew and I both had Covid, and I had been out of the hospital only a few days when we had his funeral. I still was not well, and I had suffered the loss of my husband of 63 years. I needed your help, but not once did you show any concern for me, express any grief for your dad's death, or offer any assistance.

(6) Because you are my only son, too, I always will love you. You once told me that I just wanted you to come to the farm to take care of me. I did not, and do not want that. You would not have been happy here, and you certainly have done well where you are. I just wanted to see you. I lived alone for over three years. Marilyn and Wendell live next door and are a big help to me. Both Jessica and Marilyn have taken care of me during Covid and other illnesses.

(7) The best change was my marriage to Walter. He is a real blessing and works constantly taking good care of me, the 16 acres, and multiple buildings. Hazel helps with my finances, although I manage them well. I receive Andrew's retirement funds and my social security. In addition, I receive 1/3 of the income from the “Douglas” producing wells. Marilyn, Henry, and I get along well and talk by phone frequently.

(8) I have missed being with the three of you. You were a special part of my life for many years. Walter and I pray daily that we might find the wisdom to solve the problems that keep us apart. No families are perfect. We all have made mistakes, but we wish that you could still be a part of us. Mason has two younger brothers, but he still remembers and misses Logan. Chloe would like to introduce you to her little girl.

Mom—

Mother in law

Grandmother