

RUSTY LUCAS  
P.O. Box 422  
SANDUSKY, OHIO 44871

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Pentel of America, Ltd.  
2715 Columbia Street  
Torrance, CA 90509  
ATTN: Special Orders

Dear Pentel,

I have a cousin, Edwald, who is incarcerated. He was down on his luck and he did some really dumb things. He didn't harm anyone physically, but he did take some items from a few homes while the owners weren't there. Edwald has admitted his faults and is taking responsibility for his actions. He has no one to blame but himself for the position he is now in and I think it is admirable that he is taking full responsibility. Make no mistake, he did a bad thing and he is paying his debt to society.

Edwald is doing well. He is staying out of trouble and works three days a week in the prison laundry. But my grandmother is really having a difficult time since Edwald was locked up last March. You see Edwald was raised by Granny since he was a little boy. He was a very messy kid and Granny used to call him Pigpen -- after the peanuts cartoon character. After a while she shortened his nickname to just Pen. (It would have been too rude for a grandmother to call her grandson Pig). The name stuck and most of Edwald's family and friends all called him Pen. Cartoons have always been important in our family and Granny had a cartoon nickname for all of us. Granny even had a silly black cat, Sylvester, and a yellow canary bird, Tweety.

After Pen grew up, he moved out of Granny's house and got a job in Kansas at a meat packing company. Even after he moved away, Pen used to write to Granny every Sunday to tell her about his week. They kept in touch that way for years. A week never went by that Pen didn't write to Granny. Granny's hearing has always been bad, but she is too vain to wear a hearing aid. I think that is "Sylvester the Cat" silly, but Granny refuses to wear one. She got rid of her telephone years ago because it was too difficult for her to hear.

I was often at Granny's house when Pen's letters came from the mailman. She would sit at her front window for an hour or two reading and re-reading Pen's letter of the week. He would tell her everything that he watched on TV, everything that he read in the newspaper, and everything that he bought at the grocery store. Pen always wrote about what he was doing, but he never asked Granny about what was happening in Ohio. He just routinely ran through his reports from Kansas.

The letters got so routine that Granny knew what topic was coming up next before Pen even brought it up! She would talk out loud to the letter. (I think her hearing isn't the only thing that went bad, but I also don't think she could even hear herself talking out loud to realize it). "Pen, tell me about what you have planned to watch on TV this week." "Pen, tell me what you read about in the Kansas newspapers last week." "Pen, tell me what the price of eggs are at the market." (If the price was low enough, Granny would ask Pen to buy a dozen eggs for her and send them in the mail with his letter the following week). "Pen, tell me if you met a nice girl yet to settle down with." (Granny always had high hopes that Pen would start a family to carry on Poppa's family name). "Pen, tell me what the five day weather forecast is."

I don't think Granny ever started a sentence when reading Pen's letters other than with "Pen, tell..." It got to the point that the rest of the family started calling her Granny Pen Tell. (When someone implied that this went beyond the standard cartoon nicknames in the family, I suggested that Penn and Teller are wacky enough real life people to be a cartoon themselves).

Those regular Sunday letters from Pen stopped last March when he went to prison. He isn't able to write to Granny on a regular basis due to the high levels of pen and pencil theft at the prison library. But if Pen had his own pencil, he could write to Granny whenever he wanted. He could start writing to her again regularly every Sunday right from his prison cell. It would be a "Pen" cell.

Where would a mechanical pencil be better suited or more aptly named for use than in Pen's cell? And what pencil maker is better suited for Pen and Granny than Pentel? Maybe you can even feature Granny in a television ad where you see her routine of reading Pen's letters. Instead of her saying, "Pen, tell me about x, y, z...", maybe she could actually be saying, "Pentel me about x, y, z...". \*Pentel\* could become the newest corporate name turned technological verb. Instead of Googling the Kansas news or weather, Granny would have Pen Pentel her the Kansas news and weather. I think this can go far! People across the country and around the world could be Penteling each other. Pentel might even make it into *Webster's* by the 2010 edition.

Can you send me some information about what cousin Pen would need to do to get a Pentel pencil in Kansas? If I ordered one for him and gave you the address, could you gift wrap it and ship it to him?

Sincerely,



Rusty Lucas

p.s. The pencil is for Pen, but can I get a free Pentel baseball cap for me for free. I collect baseball caps (Granny always called me Top Hat Cat) and I would like to add a Pentel cap to my collection.