

Saturday morning.  
April 3-43

Dearest One:-

I got your letter this morning telling me that you are housekeeper for the day. Gee how nice, you will know how to keep house and maybe learn to cook.

Well you will have your plate. I am glad that it got there O.K. and you will find a nice lot of tea to run you until you start home.

You said that you had not received a letter from me saying that I was glad about the leave. I like that. I think I have mentioned it in every letter that I have written since you wrote and told me when it would be. What is the matter with that darned mail service that you haven't gotten more letters and all of my letters. I WAS SO HAPPY ABOUT THE LEAVE THAT I BAWLED. I am counting the days and they are just crawling for me in that way but Oh I am busy as a cat on a tin roof getting everything fixed so that there will not be anything left for you to do but to do the final checking up and nailing up and locking of doors.

I sure hope that you don't get in on the boy's trial because you don't know anything that would help him anyhow. The dressing of his cuts doesn't solve how he received them or anything as to how the accident happened. It would just be a waste of time for them to call you on the deal.

I have written you that Charlie Barton came home last week, or was it this week, the first part. Well he came anyway so he got here ahead of you this time. He is fat and sassy. I wrote you all about him, maybe you have received the letters by now.

I am sending this letter special delivery to see if you get it and in the same mail I am sending another letter which I wrote last night. It contains news in general, all that I know which isn't much anymore because I am too busy right here in my own house to know anything about the outside world. I am so busy that I don't have time to eat. I have to go to town today and get some food because tomorrow I will have time to eat something besides coffee. I am running out and have used my stamp for the time being. I wish you had your stamp here for coffee or that you would get a pound and have it there when we land. Just any good kind like Maxwell house or Folgers. I don't know what good brand prevails down there in that country. Anything but Chase & Sandborn, that is rotten. I have to take a couple pairs of oxfords up and have rubber lifts put on them. Little things like that takes so much time. I haven't driven the car since I got my driving license, it has been blowing a gale or raining and I don't want to take the car out in the mud since I have it all washed and rubbed down. I might say that you didn't say anything nice about me getting the seat covers either, so there. I guess we are even. Well so much for that.

It is after ten now and by the time I get dressed for town, take the shoes in get some food and see if my wash dresses have arrived from Montgomery Wards and do all the little things I have to do it will have the day well spent.

There is two to three sections which comes in on #9 in the evening from the east and then there is #3 in the morning and then some trains which comes in during the night. If you get in after the busses has quit running in the night which is midnight when the last one leaves town, you phone me and I will drive up after you. Taxis are almost impossible to get any more unless you are just lucky or order one about three or four hours in advance.

If you could make connections with the Golden State Limited which runs into Eldon, Ia you could phone me from the station and I could drive down there and get you. You can bet your boots that I will be sticking so tight-home on the 19th and 20th and in fact until I see you from the 19th on that you couldn't get me away in case you should try to call me or something. I expect that I will be going to church on the 18th, sunday, and on the preceeding Friday. I will be taking my last lessen unless something turns up between now and then that changes the plans. But the 19th and 20th I will stick home like a perus plaster and right in the house only to go out and get the mail, in case the phene should ring.

Well I must get along now and get this letter to the post effice so that it will go out en #6 east. I just can't hardly wait until I hear from you again Monday. Just think all day sunday I won't get a letter. I am going to eleven o'clock service as it is Communion service., and then I will go again in the evening.

So now watch and see if you get this letter and the regular one in the same mail or right soon as I am sending them out together at the very same time, same mail and all from the P.O up town, but I will send this one special delivery and mention in your letter answering this one if you get the two O.K. Please because if you don't I am going to start the ball rolling down there. I sent you two post cards yesterday so tell me if you got them. They will find out that us northerners are not so slow that dead lice falls off us.

Lets of love to the dearest, sweetest and grandest little boy in the whole wide world. At least his mether and little black and white doggie thinks so and we just dare anyone to disput us on the subject.

*We are waiting for you. Tell Cartwright  
to hurry & sign those papers*

*Love*

*Mother*

*& Bobby*

Early April 1943

Thursday Morning.

Hi Sweet:-

Here I come all tired out this morning. Bet you can't guess what I did yesterday evening. Went fishing with Dorothy Meffitt. She drove down after me and so we went down to our old fishing holes and to the creek and I got the first fish and the only one, a nice tender juicy carp. Yesterday turned out to be so warm and nice after the rain Tuesday so I worked in the basement and then the Metropolitan called and said the check was in so I just had time to wash and dress and get up and get it and go to the bank and then the little radio was ready too so I made the two trips together because Friday when I go for my lesson I will have to carry shoes which I have at the shop. Well I cashed the check so that I can give Welshen's the money and I cashed my last allotment check which I still had.

All together now I have \$757.00. The check turned out to be \$680.00 instead of just \$500.00 as the face of the policy read. Well praise the dear Lord for that. He certainly does provide for his own. Now my food and the electricity and water will be all I will have to pay out for now as My dresses didn't come. Yes I will have my lessons yet. So hang on to yours and we will have a little nest egg after all.

I sure was happy when I got your letter yesterday and I got a nice letter from Alfred Carmen again. I saw Sid down at the river and Glen yesterday evening and told them about getting it. I didn't tell them what made me so happy about it the because they wouldn't understand. I am going to enclose it and also the films which you sent home, the ones you asked about.

Am I ever counting the days? Well you should know. I am going to spread moth balls today among the comforters and put the ticks back on Mothers bed that I had to take off when the kids were here. I will have a nice day to work as the sun has come up bright this morning and I may do a big washing yet this week and ironing and have that out of the way so that I can devote all of next week doing the last things that will have to be done and start packing.

My how people were out cleaning yards and making gardens yesterday. I see that Mr. Ash is burning off your lot and this is his week to pay me for the rent on it. I didn't rake you on those post cards for no mail. I sent them that way so ~~xxxx~~ if someone who had been neglecting the handling of your mail by noseing around it would have the pleasure of reading it and getting informed that you were not getting it as you should and that I wasn't getting it and that I was going to start investigation if it didn't change. See? I thought that they might even get smart and take some of your mail or something to see if you were writing me about the wreck or something. And then there might have been some other idea that they had taken a letter or something, you can never tell about a bunch like that or even about the officers investigating the mails. You can't never tell about things like that but they have no right to do it.

I am listening to the music shop program as I write to you and Oh how good it is to get it and here good music like that again, you know how I always loved the better music and especially the music shop from Ames. Guess what, the tube that had gone bad in the little radio couldn't be bought any more from any one during the war so Mr. Baird had to build an adapter for another one and he said he thought that that size would be obtainable through the war period unless they took them out of circulation too which he doubted, it cost me \$4.65 but it sure is working fine and handy to have. I thought you might want to take it back with you. Yet you didn't ask for it. He said this adapter can be removed when we are able to get the tubes again and the regular tube put in.



Well Nera has sold her home and Joe leaves this Sunday for Oregon and she has to sell out some of the furniture as the P.J. Friday who bought the place only bought the stove, refrigerator and rug, so she will have to sell all the rest. I would like to have that gold colored chair which she has but she wants me to make the price and if it is enough all right she forgets that I know she paid only \$16.00 for it but I am not going to get it as I still have to buy my or rather pay for my garment which is at her house, \$5.00 and I will get it soon when I have time. She has always given me special prices on my garments, she cut \$8.00 off of the first ones and the 2nd ones two for that matter giving me them just at her wholesale price so I can kick on that. I would like to have her chair because I know that her things have been taken care of as we would ours. And believe me they are selling plenty high at the stores now. You will get to see Nera and Helen before they go.

John North is a little better but not anything like out of danger. They still pack his chest over his heart in ice so you can tell by that that he is pretty bad. It is mostly grief and the effect of the flu.

Am I ever happy that your papers have come back signed and that it will only be a week or so until you come now. I hope you get home on Sunday, a week from this coming Sunday because if Hudge gets back you will get to see him. Tell your boss that you just must get to start as you stated in your letter, early on Sat. Believe me I will hang close to home on Sat and Sunday and not leave until I see you or hear your voice. Gee I can't hardly wait.

So glad that you like the preacher there and that he is a good one. You should have heard Welshens cut loose Sunday night. I hope you get to hear a good sermon by him when you get home. You sure are getting right in on invitations and meals again aren't you? I'll bet you keep your present waistline all right. Ha. Glad you get to go riding all over the park. We will tee won't we dear? Oh yes did I tell you that Charlie Thompson has developed arthritis in his knees so bad that they are planning on sending him home if he don't get better soon. So you have two rivers down there in Vicksburg, I wonder how fishing is. I would. Well I sure do get a thrill out of catching them and eating them too. Bobby ate the one I got last night. I had to sit and pick the bones out for him and he loved it.

Dorothy said that Bob was back in Sioux Falls as he went to Fla for training and studying to be an instructor as he is no good on account of his eyes so he is supposed to be at Sioux Falls for the duration. Chinkie died and they have got another Peke. Mrs. Moffitt is still in her wheel chair but her hip is doing real well considering the break and her age.

I hope you didn't puff my singing up too much because while I do sing a little better than some that I have heard around here, there are many much better. But I will do my best not to let you down, believe me.

I am going to enclose Alfred's letter so that you can see how he is changing. He still is his old jolley self, bless his heart. I do hope we can go see the boys and have a talk with him. He thinks he will be sent across in August. I want to see poor Little Benny Deup too. I feel so sorry for that boy. Away from his home and mother and he loved his home and music so. Alfred is more of a little rowdy and can see the funny side of everything as you can tell by his letter. I have the vibraharp weighted down on the place where it is warped with that flat piece of iron that we crack nuts on. I think it is going to work all right. I hope so. Well I must get this letter out to the box or it won't get on its way today and I will have to hop to the work again. I will be plenty busy from now on. But not too busy to write to the dearest and best little boy in all the world. The Navy is building another landing field out east here someplace. I see the trucks go by every day taking men out to work on it and loads of materials.

So now I will enclose the films and I think we will bring the other pictures with us and they are all pretty good, so far as I can tell not knowing the folks but yours alone is not good. I don't know why they couldn't have gotten that one good with your mouth twisted up so funny. Well now I am going to be looking for you on Sunday the 18th, is that right? Well now I must close and get this letter out and I will be looking for you again today. The cottonwoods over on the river are sending out their little long red worm like bloom, I can see them from here.

Now my darling I will be listening for the phone and any message from you on sat and Sunday. I will stay close to the house and inside so that I can hear the phone. So call me as soon as you get in and if you come at night after the busses run you must call me so that Bobby and I can come up after you.

Oh yes, I saw Old Mrs. Perry up town yesterday and she said that Howard had sailed and she has not ~~heard~~ heard from him since the sailing.

Mrs. Noland called and said you would be receiving a letter from her as she mailed it yesterday. She hopes she is able to go with us but her ankle is so weak yet that she is almost afraid too. She explained it to you in her letter.

Now my little boy, it won't be long now but it seems so long to us don't it? So I must get busy and have everything all shaped up when you arrive and the house all cleaned up. So by by now my sweet and do be careful coming home. Remember what Betty said about Chicago, stay right in the station and don't miss your train. What line would you take out of Chicago for Ottumwa, let me know.

Lots of love now from your mother waiting here for the dearest person in the world whom I will be the happiest person in the world to see and to hold you to me again. Little Boy of mine. God Bless you and keep you safe and well and bring you home well and safe to Bobby and me.

*Love Mother*

*&*

*Bobby*

Ottumwa, Ia.  
April 7-43

Dearest Little Boy:-

Here I come a little late again this evening as it is 8:30 and Fibber McGee and Molly are just coming on. Well we have had a strong wind all day just blowing everything right and left until it finally blew up a rain this afternoon and I think it is still raining lightly. Everything looks so much greener after the rain and I do believe that things have grown since it started raining. If we get a warm sunshine after this I know that they surely will.

Your letter of the 4th came today and I hope I get one tomorrow altho it is Wed and for some reason I never get a letter on that day. I see that you get all day Sunday off, I think that is fine and I hope you find a Full Gospel church and when we get down with Jennifer we will be able to look things over better won't we?

No wonder Jim is not feeling up to par with a bad leg and the other deal coming up, the two of them will sort of wear on his nerves. I hope they don't call you in because you cannot help them any just by dressing his cuts. That wouldn't have any bearing on how the accident occurred.

I do hope your leave papers are back by now and that you will know for certain when you will be leaving and for how long. Gee I hope you get more than five days because if you don't there will be a lot of people sadly disappointed in this town. So many want to see you that if you don't get to see them at church you won't have time to go around and look them up.

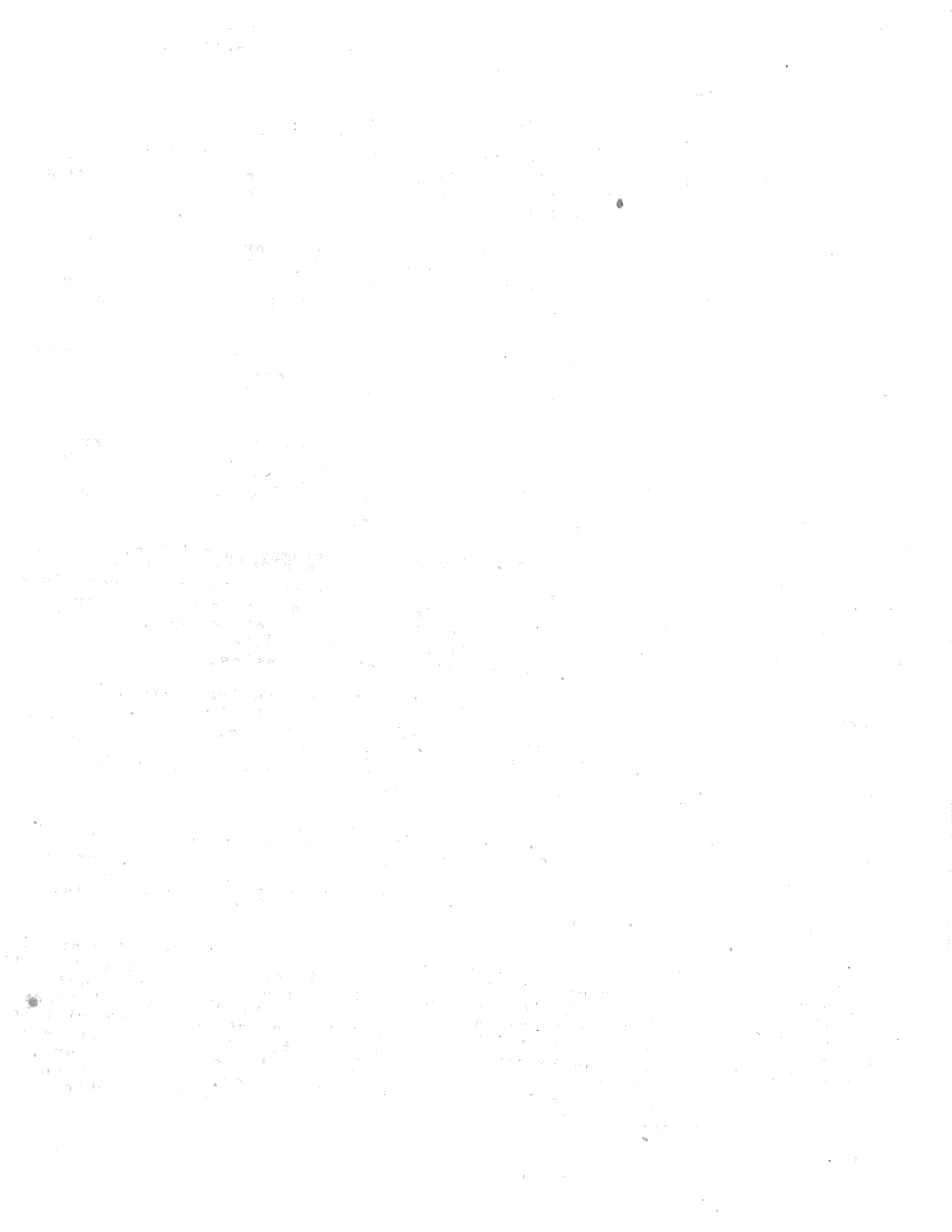
I hope you are feeling better by now. I have had a stomach upset too. In church Sunday I got the stomach ~~xxx~~ in church and thought I wouldn't make it home in time to save me some extra laundry. I have had the Kansas Quick step ever since. I got so hungry from it all that I made a depression cake this evening for supper for Bobby and I and we had some tea too, (run out of coffee). So maybe that is what is wrong with you. It may be the change of water and some of the food that you have got hold of. I hope it is not the measles.

It certainly is not hot enough around here to think of wearing whites, the boys are still wearing their pea coats and blues and their dark blue hats. We have had a cold wind which just penetrates a fellow thro and thro. Women are still wearing their fur coats. If it don't warm up this week I don't know what I am going to do for fuel because I am not going to buy any more coal. I will have to do my final washing before the coal gets gone.

So, your weight is just the same, Ha, Ha, Ha. Will I ever get a laugh on you. I remember when you said that people didn't need to be fat if they didn't make a pig of themselves and eat all the time, that they could control it, now lets see you practice what you used to preach to me. Ho, Ho, Ho. You will have to wear it off on the ball team. Oh, boy this is going to be good. A nice big fat boy to squeeze.

Here's hoping that the new boss you get will not tolerate this drinking around the camp and when the boys come in drunk and have liquor with them that he will give them a good punishment instead of locking them up and hiding them and thus upholding them in their orniness. The deal of the wreck shes that murder will out no matter how well you think you have things concealed, there will be somehow that it will turn up in some deal of that sort. I'll bet that it won't interfere with your priveleges when he finds out what kind of a lad you are. He will soon learn to tell who is who if he is an old timer. If he has been in the business so long he will have no trouble telling where the trouble lies.

I did like the boys pictures and all the rest but I am anxious to see them all in person.





Bobby is getting awful restless hearing me tell him that you are coming but he is not able to see you. I want to see what he does when you come, I'll bet he just throws a regular fit. If he could talk he would have all kinds of things to tell you. He wanted to go car riding again today but I said Nix. He got a ride Sunday and Monday and it spoiled him.

My cotton dresses from Montgomerys hasn't come in yet and when they do I will have them to adjust and then I am going to stop. If I run out of clothes I will get some paint to cover up. I am tired of sewing. I have to get my other thing from Nora yet. I expect her to come down any day now with it. She sure is busy getting herself ready to leave for the West. My how we are all getting spread out over the U.S.A. Well just so we never have to leave it that will be all right.

I am getting things lined up ready to pack. Seven days from 19 leaves 12. A long time but lots to do and counting Sundays out I will have to keep fanning won't I? A half day is shot when I go to take my lessons, so I won't have any time to spare. Well I don't care, the sooner you come the better. I have to finish the dress I started last week and it sure has been one headache. It is silk and and slides around until I can't hardly get two pieces sewed together straight.

I sure hope that tomorrow will be a better day. This wind is just wearing me out this spring and it really has been blowing plenty hard too. It is more like Kansas the night we stayed at Dallas's home, you remember how it blew that night, well it is just that way day after day for ever a week now. I tried to get some of the leaves raked up and burned yesterday but today the leaves from Bartons blew right over in the same place the other were yesterday and the work will all be to do over again. I would like a fairly warm day to do some more work out in the yard.

Well I must get off to bed, moring will comesoon and I will still be sleepy. Must go see if the fire will hold until morning. I do wish we would get a warm sunny day for a change. So I'll be writing you again and looking for that letter tomorrow altho I don't suppose I will get one as it is Wed. They must close the post office on that day or think it a holiday down there.

John North is only a little bit better. I geuss he is a pretty sick man. The Zepher is just coming in and how I wish you were coming in on it. But we will have to wait, it won't be long now, will it?

Now Good night ry little sweet and God Bless you and keep you well, and safe and bring you safe home to us. Lets and lots of love and Bobby got his squeeze. and a lot more.

Love

Mother

Bobby.

