

SEPTEMBER

Monday Morning 12th

Dearest One:-

Just a short note because I have gotten your box packed and your socks darned and ready to mail out but it is afternoon and I am going right up to the P. O. to get your box out to you. I hope I get there in time for it to go out on #6.

I hope that it gets to you in good shape and not too much mussed up. I sent it back in a larger box so that I could fold them out more open and not wrinkle them all up.

Your letter of Friday morning with the inspection record came and I will get the tires inspected while up town because it has to be done by Sept. 30th on the A book. I still have 45 gal coming to me at the place I trade, you know where and then I have to use my A stamps to get some more as the tank is registering 1/2 new. I drove up to church last night and then took Bro and Sis Neland home. I didn't get home until nearly 11 as church held awfully long. Charlie Thompson got started and he just couldn't stop. I don't blame him for he is so happy. Today he goes back to work walking like any other man. I heard him tell Mable that he was going to fire her and make her stay home and take care of just home since he will be able to work full time now, he was only working about 3 1/2 days a week in the past condition.

It is dark, cold and cloudy again today. I am nearly froze to death. You can just bet that as soon as my time is up here that I am taking off. I will be taking my surplus fruit and vegetables over to Neland's soon and have that off my hands. I still say that I am traveling light when I come back.

I had to laugh at your letter as you start it out, Friday, Aug. 10 43. I still say you had better get a calendar and realize that this is Sept instead of August or is something the matter with you? Sounds like you might be in love. Well you had better get over that for I will straighten you out when I get back there, now come down to earth and find out what month it is, for goodness sake.

Does the ladies have their refrigerator working again, you spoke about making some ice cream refrigerator style. I will try to get more pudding for you if they have any more in stock. Sat when I was at the store they were out of it again. Yes, rent time and insurance times sure roll around fast and no one knows it any better than I when the policies stand up in front of me every Feb. Aug and then the weekly ones.

It is almost 12:30 now and I will have to fan it to town if I get to the P.O. so that this can go out at 1:45 on #6. Have to get some more grub too. Well I will stop now, sweet, and will be looking for a letter from you tomorrow. Peggy Price says you owe her a letter again as she wrote you one. She is a good little girl but Betty gives Bennie much worry, Jimmie is a good boy, so Bennie tells me. Gee, how I wish you were here, or me there, How about you? Guess I knew.

Lots of love from your lone one Mother & little Bobby.

*Mother & Bobby*

Tuesday Morn.  
Aug 7-43

My Dearest Darling ,

How is my sweet this morning, I am as sleepy as can be. I got to bed at 11 last night and the same way the night before. When I go to church on the bus and stay until it is all over it sure makes me late and I would not stay so long only they make me come up in the choir.

Sunday night I had just got home and into bed when the biggest blow started up and say did this town ever see a storm before it was ever. Part of the big maple tree in Barten's came down and branches were all over the ground. The south end of the hill beard facing east on the railroad property at the foot of the hill blew down and the Jesus Saves sign on the church just went around the corner as neat as you please. Bro Welshen rushed back to the tent when the blow started to help Darnier who I think stays there at nights and the tent nearly went over the hill and it was torn pretty bad but they are going to continue the meetings. He said he had to go up three streets on the south side before he could get across to town and that big trees were laying across Sheridan and the other streets.

Brother Burk was to go to Iowa City for an operation of rupture and was waiting for the car to come get him and was getting weaker and sicker all the time and I do not know the circumstance surrounding the matter but he was healed before the car got there for him and signed the slip for the driver that he was not going with him when he did come and he is just stepping it off around here.

The weather man predicted the first frost of the fall for the north and the north central part of the state last night and this morning the temperature is just 52 here so they surely get it. It won't be long until the leaves will be showering down around here and I will be raking and burning most of the time.

I sewed all day yesterday and was so lonesome for you that I had to have two or three bawling spells before the day was over. I have two wash dresses well on to the way of completion and I think I can get them finished today. Sunday I had Bro and Sis Neland, Bro and Sis Welshen and Jerry out for dinner after church but I was determined to go to church that morning because Bro Welshen was to preach for a change and I wanted to hear a good sermaen. It was the first time since Hickery Grove that he has preached except his broadcast. He let the Elders preside at the Communion table Sunday and did not come down and take any part in it, just sat on the platform and was served. There is something burdening and grieving him so today he is entering a seven day fast at the church and will not leave the church even for a funeral, the only way he announced that he would handle a funeral is for them to bring the body to the church but that he would not be leaving the church even to go to the demetery for commital. Yesterday they all went to Des Moines for the Nixon favily reunion, but today starts the fast. Of course there was to be 10 days of fast and prayer for all the pastors of the Open Bible churches in Des Moines and due to the radio he cannot leave here to I think he is taking his fast and prayer right here at the church but there are other churches calling him all the time but I would be one sad person if he was taken away.

He has said things in the pulpit which leads me to believe that he is coming to the decision that he is not wanted here so much by the action of some of the members and the falling away of attendance. I guess some of them are getting pretty indifferent. I wish they were out on a church starvation diet like you are and I was when I was down there with you in that miserable country and then they would be plenty anxious to get to a church as often as it was at all possible, wouldn't they? You must write to him often and tell him how you miss him and how you would appreciate being back here to sit under the sound of his voice and be fed ~~xxxx~~ with the Manna from heaven which he could give you. He needs all the kind words and encouragement right now that anyone can pass out to him. He is going thro some terrible trial or some grief or something. It will come out sooner or later but do pray for him.

Rev. <sup>m</sup>Sith's wife is still in Calif and she preached the sermon a week ago Sunday morning and told the women that she could now tell the color of their dresses. Her sight seems to be returning but Welshen did not say what the stage of the cancer which is supposed to be back of her eyes near the brain is doing. The doctors gave her just six months to live, but I have noticed that with this trouble on the world and the devil running rampant that God's people and the full gospel ministers and workers are certainly having to prove what they have been preaching. It is either the time now to prove the Faith or the devil is working harder and faster than ever.

It sure was cold all day yesterday with a stiff breeze coming down from the north all day long. I had to wrap Bobby up in bed all day long and he is still in bed this morning. It is about time for the news now and it sure looks like the boys are going right thro Italy and some of those islands where the Japs have been stationed. The prayers of the God loving and God fearing people is not going to go unanswered for if we ask believing or cry out to him he will be by the side of his children.

Did you hear Richard Crooks last night and everyone singing on the radio the song Onward Christian Soldiers which was sung for all the boys in service and all the listeners were asked to join in the song? How it thrilled me until I could hardly sing. I enjoyed his program so much last night, he comes on Monday at 7:30. The deadline here is the 15th of Sept for men to get into defense jobs or they will be drafted, those men of draft age and pre Pearl Harbor fathers, so Merrells will sure lose a lot of men again won't they? And they are calling for men all the time to work in the plant. I guess the old man is about all that they can get. Maybe they will appreciate you when you can come back.

Melvin Pettit has received his physical discharge and is now back home. I don't know what is wrong with him but I guess it is enough that they kicked him out, he looks pretty pale and thin. I said to Sis Noland that some fellows were lucky but she said she would rather that Esstoll would be in service than to be sick enough in body to be discharged from the service, because they have to be in pretty bad shape before they are let out and Charlie Thompson's wife told me she would rather he could be in service than to be like he is now. He limps awfully bad. He wrote to you Sunday she said.

Well the news is over and I think I will go get some breakfast, wash and dress and some other things and get busy sewing again. The wind is coming up again and it is plenty cool this morning. I hear Bobby getting up, here he comes thro the curtain smiling. He is the sweetest little dog in the whole world. He has been out of doors now and come back in and he is in his bed here in the living room looking out the window.

I will be looking for your wash when the mailman comes today and a nice big letter from you. Sister Noland said she got yours. They have been painting and cleaning all last week as he only took one week vacation this year as all men are so needed at the plant. My coffee is perking and the water is warm so I had better go wash and dress and then get this letter out in the box before Chisman comes.

I feel like starting back this morning it is so nice and cool but I do want it to be cooler in Ark when I hit that place again and I am going to come by the Grace of God and if I can get a good used tire I will unless I get different instructions from you. I am asking God to place a good tire in my hands. He can and will do it if we ask him and believe him to do it and trust. Psalm 37-5.

Well my darling, I will close now and I am still thinking or you mighty hard, are you still dreaming of me. Strange I dreamed of Dad last night the first time in many a moon. Maybe it was because I ate pop corn and drank some coffee before I went to bed last night. I am going to church tonight. We have just got to hold Brother Welshen up to the throne this week as he is fasting and praying, that his body can stand it and not weaken. He sure did eat and enjoy his dinner here Sunday and so did Jerry. She is putting out her picture now and "Jerry the story Girl" so write to her at Box 455 just for fun and to pep her up for she is so faithful and sweet about her work. She is teaching again this year, she did not think she would get a school as she had to study something new and didn't finish before school but a school teacher that is married and is going to have a baby quit her job and Jerry got it so her dad got her an old car without a horn and she drives to school and stays at her parents home at nights, but she always comes over here to Ottumwa on Sat and Sun. I got her a little dog which is just like her cocker spaniel "Rex" for her and bud at the Oriental shop in Des Moines. She sure prizes it and said that Dad Welshen would not get that one. She keeps it in her room for her self and when Bud comes. Dear Boy he sure is facing the battle hard and may God's great arm encircle and protect him and my little boy from all physical and spiritual harm. Estell is on manuevers in Bend Oregon just about 80 miles from Eugene. Well I must close my Angel and God bless you very special and keep you safe and well so tell me all the news and how M & R are. Still fainting off?

I love you so much and by the Grace of God I will be with you again when my work here is finished and the weather gets good and cool.

By now and lets of hugs and Kisses to the most precious boy in this whole big world. My best to John and his wife and a big hug for little Chris.

*Your love some Mollie & Bobby*