

Ottumwa, Iwa.
Jan. 28th-43

Dear Little Angel Boy:-

Here comes your old Mammy again, Gee but was I ever glad when you called last night. I had gone down to fix the fire and close the coal shuttles when the phone rang and I knew somehow that it was you calling and did I ever clear that coal pile, you should have seen me and heard me calling for Bobby to hurry up and follow me. He was sitting on the bench watching the fish in the tub and I yelled "Come on Bobby that is Boy calling us" and did I ever do those steps in a one two three. That goes to show the love bond between us for our messages travel faster than the phone can act.

I felt the other night that something was wrong with you because I heard Mother call me in my sleep to hurry up and come, it woke me and I prayed then for you for fear you were in danger and needed prayer for protection or that you might be ill or something. Well anyway I was the happiest person on earth when I got your call and I just couldn't go to bed and sleep until after midnight. I just laid there and prayed and sang for joy.

Well I got three letters from you today but not the one with the tithe money in it as yet. I will have \$50.27 this week to turn in and then yours when it comes. I took the 10% check and applied it right back on the insurance and enough to even the payments out and now the weekly insurance is paid until April the 1st, that will leave your policy for about \$16.00 the 20th of Feb to be paid next. The household insurance is going to come due I think in April also, April or May. That will be about \$50.00 and then comes the car Luxury tax next.

Time flies so fast after I get home that I don't get anything done and set down to write you until 9 or 9:30. The clock just struck 9:30 right now. I must be awful slow on the track. Of course the care of the furnace takes a lot of time and then I have to wash out my hose and etc. I am going to blow myself to more than one or two pairs so that I won't have to wash every night. It will not be so bad when the furnace time is over, and the days are longer.

You in turn climbed my frame in your letters and then in the third you said you hoped you had not said anything to hurt me, Oh, no, I'll say you didn't because I got just the results from you that I wanted. I wanted you to say how you loved me and how much you had come to appreciate us both and that the women, etc didn't lead you away for us here. Well that is just the kind of a letter that I wanted and I got it by climbing your frame as you call it. I told you on the phone that I trusted you to the ends of the earth for you are especially blessed of God and I knew that even when you were a little boy and someday you will come to know the meaning of that saying to the fullest extent too, my Dear. You are a very very special little boy whether you want to believe it or not. I want you to be happy and to visit those dear people who are so kind to you and believe me I am proud as well as praising God that they have found out what kind of a boy you are even to the priggish banker. Why the Banker, Dr. Mayor or any other big shot down there isn't worthy to stand by the side of your principals. believe me and I am not saying that in Mother pride alone either. My Dear Heavenly Father knows that I am proud of you and wasn't he of Jesus, for he said "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased". Why can't a poor miserable lonely Mother on earth be proud of a Son like you too? Well I am just the same and don't you ever fool your little self that I am not.

It was so kind and thoughtful of you to had that Lad talk with me a minute. I did not catch his name on the phone so will you please write it to me? I love him for talking to me and saying the good things that he did about you but of course he would have to in order to be telling the truth and I know it wasn't flattery. I am sorry if I hurt you because I didn't mean it that way, but I got what I wanted to hear you say in your dear letters. Don't you feel bad about your letters or even dare to apologize to me you precious child. So there. Now do you believe that, every little word of it? You had better, or I will bite you good when I get a hold of your. If my letters produced the phone call I will write like that again in about a month. Ha. Ha.

I would love to have the hobnail basket in which ever color you care for but I am afraid for you to send it. It would make us both heart sick if it got broken wouldn't it? and then the money would be wasted. You just wait until you come home and if there is anything you want to bring and have the time to bring it all right, but if not you just come, you mean more to me than all the baskets in the world. Mr. Simmons the Jeweler went to Chicago last week and hunted up the hobnail dinner plates for me and found them ther and ordered them for me and they will be here in about a month. I went shopping for ~~axminster~~ rugs today and the axminister rugs look so cheap and tawdry that they did not interest me, and then he had some all wool axminste in strips which he could make up for me but not in the plain pattern or the brown colors, it was almost a white background with the floral pattern on it. Not suitable for our little home so I looked at the all wool twisted Broadloom and can get it in the plain colors 9 x 15 and 9 x 18 and the price for the two rugs will be \$248.00. These are the best and hard twisted pile instead of cut fuzzy like axminister and should wear me the rest of my life and part of yours. He is writing in to get them in either the brown or the beige. They may have to come from the mills at Philadelphia if they don't have them in stock at the warehouse in Chicago. It will take about two weeks to get them. He will wire for them when he finds out if he can get them or not. I will know by Saturday. This is a pretty stiff price to pay but I find out from all the stores that they are using so much rayon in the rugs today to conserve the wool that they will not last and wear and they will not guarantee the colors either and you know how much sunlight we have in our home. I have been considering it from all angles and Sears asks as much for their all wool Broadloom as Saul Edmund does at that even in their catalog. Montgomery won't even list them anymore in the wool. So if I can get these in the sizes that we want I think I had better grab them now. I have the money and if I don't I will have to have the floors refinished all over where at it is with the rugs we will only have to do them around the edges. The price for doing the floors all over will be \$50.00 and then they will still be bare and I would have to buy the little rugs after all. So I am trying to consider it from all angles for the best. I am going to have to increase the insurance a thousand or two after I get the things for the home, which should have been done anyway with all the repair work and remodeling that you have done on it, then there is the stove and sink which cannot be bought anymore now when the present stocks are exhausted. So I think I shall give my order for them. I also saw the drop leaf dining tables there made like the ones in Amana but I didn't have time to look into them and price them as my noon hour was up and I am glad I didn't because the Manager and the Butcher has been at odds all day and then this evening at the busiast time the fireworks went off and the Butcher told the Manager to shut his Damm mouth right in front of a whole store full of people and did I ever feel embarrassed to death and so did the customers, then they went out in the back room and had it again. I thought that they were coming to blows but they didn't. Carl and I stayed up in front and kept our mouths tight shut. Carl sure is a swell guy and he treats me grand, in fact they all do but the Butcher cusses every sentence he speaks and so I just quite talking to him anymore at all.

The boss lady came in today, I mean into town and phoned the store from the depot but she didn't stop at the store, she went right on out to the farm to rest as she was all in from her trip and of course she had her sister with her. I'll bet there will be some explaining and tall talking for two certain fellows to do tomorrow.

Don't worry about your leave my Dear, just pray that God will undertake and send you at the right time. You know he has a way of working out our every move if we will just yeild to him. He has been so marvelous to me. Just this evening when I was held up at the store so long and was standing waiting for the bus, the daughter of the old man who used to be a jeweler here intown, Mr. Cotton, was driving down town in her Buick DeLux and she stopped and had her little boy Jack to call over tome and ask me if I was going down town and if so to come on and ride down with them. The last two or three days that things have been going rough at the store several has come in and said, Well at least you have a smile and that is something around here. So you see the reflecting of God's love will not go without its reward. I am sure that is something you have found to be very true too in your s time spent in Greensburg. Well, we will leave Bailey and the papers with God and plead his blood over them both that there will be just the right time and right reason for you whether it is March or April. I know how much you want to come and the sooner the better so far as we are concerned but we will ask God to manage the affairs for us.

So you had to have your wisdom tooth pulled? Well they aren't any good any way, never stay with a person as their other teeth should do. I am glad that you have it over now and the other ones fixed up.

I am so glad that you are in the best detail group there is. I am like Nora said about it, you should shake hands with yourself that you fell into the carpenter group and was doing something that the girls cannot come in and do and thereby throw you out into the more unpleasant and dangerous work. Our dear Lord was a carpenter and it didn't lower his standard. If it is for you to have Deisel later on it will come to you, or any other study that you want to take. You may change your mind on deisel and find something you like better as the time goes on, so don't worry about it but just praise God that he has kept you safely in the States and with a good officer and boss. You know you could have come under a very mean one but I praise God for things as they are now and will not ask more, only just his protection of you. I don't want any officer's rating for you and any of man's glory, no I want you just to be like you are and let God do the rewarding.

We are going to have a change in the weather. I can tell from the way the trains sound going up Agency hill tonight. I hope it don't get cold again like it has these last two cold spells, they just wear me out.

God is certainly answering prayers in regard to the war. The allies are winning more victories every day and it can only be done with his help. Sure glad that you heard from Pangburn, and Pearl., and Dr. Upchurch. I don't know what they think of me, I have never written them but I haven't forgotten them either. Keep in touch with them for when and if you get in that neighborhood you can have the pleasure of going to see them.

I am glad that you are getting some pictures of your friends down there and will be looking for them so that I can compile your scrap book. I think it was fine of the boys to take you to dinner. As far as the bankers daughter is concerned, she could not invite a finer guy to her home than you. I'll tell her that. I am glad that you rate and am I ever proud of you. I'll bet you enjoyed the nigger church. They say that they have some pretty wild times down there in church. You can tell Henry Warnum about it when you come home.

Mr. Corrick the bus man was asking about you this morning and when I told him that you may be able to come home, he said, "Well don't let him do a single lick of work, don't you have a thing laid out for him to do now". Jut let him have a good time the way he wants to have it when he comes. I asked him what he thought I was keeping the car in running order for if it wasn't for you, and I asked him if he saw me running around in it? He said "No and I hadn't better see you either" so you see I have to be good. Everyone loves you here too and they ask about you, big and little, young and old and I want you to have a good time with all that you can when you do come home.

Yes my darling, we will plan a trip to see all your lovely friends when this is all over. Your friends are my friends because I know when you class them they will be all right and we will do everything we can to go see them. We will just pile in old Jennifer and take one grand long vacation together and go over the old trail and have a visit with all of them. They have my love and blessing for the kindness that they have shown you. Now take care of that precious eye and I will be looking for the next letter, it is 10:30 now and the news is over and I guess that Bobby and I will hit the hay and dream of you.

I dread going to work in the morning knowing that those two men have had hard words and how the feeling will be, because when Brough gets mad he really gets plenty mad and so does the other guy. He don't need to come crying to me because I am not taking sides with either one of them. I am like Carl, I am keeping my nose out of their troubles. I am trying to fill my place and that keeps me plenty busy. I expect I will be kept pretty busy with her back now until we get the books all caught up, they are now a month behind, also all the invoices and statements. I have banked over Three thousand dollars for her besides paying the milk, bread, butter and little expense bills such as electric repairs, laundry, etc at the store. Also the wages came out of the deposit money but the Three thousand and over was clear banking.

So here goes Bobby and I to bed, it is 15 min to Eleven. So good night my darling and God Bless you and you had better keep up your MUSH or I will climb your frame again. Ha. Ha. Well, poor little Vernon goes in the morning and it makes me so sad because he is going out with hatered in his heart for his own family, but that is the result of doing what I begged him not to do and he ~~ka~~ now acknowledges it. I don't care a rap for her but the little children, Johnnie and Marietta will have to suffer with that outfit.

Now Good night and God Bless you and keep you safe, his loving arms encircle you and hold you from all harm and bring you safe home to us.

Lore

Mother

Bobby

Sunday. Jan. 31-43

My Darling little Boy:-

Here I come again to talk to you a little while. It is now 1:30 Sunday afternoon. I got up about 9:30 this morning and could hardly make myself go. I would have stayed in bed much longer and just relaxed but this little old busy body who sleeps all week when I am working, decided he wanted thing to be put into motion so up I had to get and even then I didn't get to percolating, I have just moped around and done nothing. I am so nervous and tired at the end of the week that it is almost quits for me.

Vernon came down late last night after he had taken his little dog out and disposed of it. She had developed distemper and was so sick so he destroyed her and it is well he did for nothing gets any care around that place but the old woman, Ward and Mable anyway.

He stayed until midnight and of course he knew I had gotten the money from the insurance he had to jump me about it and give me a good combing because he said he knew the policies were in existence and had tried to find out about them and couldn't and he had wanted them to keep up, well you know how he keeps things up, and he wanted to know what I was going to do with the money and all that and that he thought he should have the one which matures in November, well, he will not, if I can't get the money in cash I will send it back to the company to keep until the day that it can be gotten. I won't let him and that outfit have one red cent of it.

He was accepted in Des Moines so he will be leaving next Friday, so that's that. He said that Mable will have some hard sleding but just let her have it, she won't be as she should and when she lied to Albert when he was here to Mother's funeral that severed all relations between she and I for all time to come. Vernon is terribly jealous of you and still holds that you have had much better opportunities and chances than he and he is also jealous of John Ellis and now he is saying that he is just a family outcast and will never get anything from either side. Well if that is what he means by family outcast he is one so far as I am concerned. He will not listen or try to do anything but his own way, and I reminded him last night that I had not forgotten when I told him to leave the Ward outfit alone that he told me to mind my own D--- business, so I told him that the business end of it was all up to him now. It all hurts me and I had to bawl about the whole thing after he left and just ruined my day for today. He went so far as to ask me who I had considered leaving the home to in case you and I were both taken, and I said I hadn't considered leaving yet and he said of course there is only two near relatives, me and Albert. I guess he figures Albert and he is not likely to have anything happen to them. He just got too, too nose to suit me.

I guess things are in a pretty bad mess around his place but it was his choice instead of the good home that he had here with his grandparents and he didn't make a fool of himself once but twice, so I have washed my hands of them all. I love Vernon and want to be kind to him and all that but I can't take on his obligations and family, he is a man and had gone out from home and made a life of his own and he will have to take the consequences. Well so much for that, I guess it is better that he has gone to the Service and we will trust and pray that things are different when he returns. But I am afraid that he will always be a hard headed fool with whom no one can reason.

Well, it has snowed today, first a swirl of clouds and snow and wind and then the sun shines, and the weather is edging on to the end of winter and the coming of spring.

I am going to try to get my work done this afternoon and then go to church tonight. Sunday goes all to fast when I have to clean, wash, press and then bath, shampoo and do all the dozens of little things that I have to do in the one day. If it was mild weather so that I wouldn't have to use the furnace and carry out ashes and all those things every night I could get something done in the evenings. I am going to have my Sunday's free for church all day when the weather gets better. I must go next Sunday for it will be communion.

I am sorry that our visit cost you so much my dearest but to me too it was well worth it. Your voice sounded so much more happier and cheerful than it did the first time you phoned me. I am so glad that you got to know some one like the Holland's and the other kind ones.

How is your eye, I hope it is better now, in fact I pray and have been praying that it is well. Don't over tax it. No we do have to and will have to take persecution for Christ and I am not afraid to take it. Only I get so tired of that old fool just swearing in just a casual remark or some little thing that is mentioned. I am glad that Mrs. DeVol is back now, there is not so much of it and not so much of Brough's high tempered actions. I think she is going to like me but she is one of those kind that doesn't want to show it. She was at the store all day Sat but went out home about seven in the evening and I stayed about an hour longer and then Brough told me that I might as well go out home too, so away I went without any coaxing you can bet. I just fly home to my mail box and then the dear little white house and the little spotted doggie in it.

So glad that you heard from Mamie. Poor kid she sure has a hard row and if ever there was a good mother to her children it is she. They are going to kill her off if they don't quit putting so much on her tho.

Two lads, LEGrand and LaVelle. I'll bet your french name takes with those people down there don't it? Your Mother's, Henrietta will too because it is is a name used so much among the French. I'm sure glad that you had a nice visit with him after talking with me. I wish he had a fireplace but someday who knows, we might have two of them.

My sailor lad who comes into the store brought his little baby daughter with him yesterday, her name is Peggy. His wife has been in bed sick ever since they have been here and of course they are among strangers and in a neighborhood that isn't very friendly, that is just a few doors from Avinells. He didn't say and I didn't ask what was wrong with his wife as there were people in the store and then if I talk to any man that old butcher has got his eyes and ears cocked and primed and then he starts kidding me about him afterwards. I think this lad is about your age, but he is clean in his dress and actions and never comes in smoking, in fact I don't think he does at all for he would have some indications of it if he did. He has such clean sweet manners and acts so much like you that I have taken a great liking to him. I asked him Saturday if he had a drivers license and he said yes and so I asked him if he would like to take your car out for exercise once in a while for a little ride with his wife and baby and he said he certainly would be happy to but that he wanted to meet you when you came home. I told him that I had the sweetest boy in the whole world, baring none. But he said, "You will go along with the car won't you"? and I said. "OH YES". Well, he said, I wouldn't want to take your son's car out without you along, and I told him that he didn't need to worry about me NOT being along with that car.

When the weather gets nicer and the roads are free of ice I may let him drive it to Des Moines with me some time to see Aunt Lilly. I will find out more about him and his religious life before I get too friendly with him and his wife, but he is the only one of the Navy men who has come in to the store and has acted kind or friendly. The others come to buy stuff to mix liquor with and I have no time for them.

He never leaves without turning at the front door and half bowing will say, "Well, Good night". The looks of the baby showed what type of a woman she was. The baby was sweet and clean and its pink satin carriage robe was folded as neat as a pin around it. The baby looked like it was all wrapped up like a tailor made package, the covers were not just thrown over it and poked around in the little buggy. He parked the buggy up in the front of the store and went back in the back part to get the meat and milk and other things he wanted and he said, she might cry because she is ready for her bottle about now but I had to come get milk and he kept one eye on her but she just looked at the big world around her and didn't peep, she smiled at some of the old sisters who came in and went over to look her over but no Weeps. She is not a pretty baby by any means but you can tell they are not spoiling her. I must call Avinell and see if she knows about him, they should call on them but Avinell and Harold thinks they are big shots because he is manager of that store. She has asked me over several times but I don't care to go if she jumps her mother again like she did the last time I was there, she is another Kae Leinhauser.

Well, believe it or not. I can get the two rugs in the tan beige for both room right out of the warehouse in Chicago and they will be here in about two weeks. The furniture store wired the order in yesterday. I paid \$100.00 down on them and there is a balance of ~~\$\$\$~~ \$144.00 which I told him he would get when he delivered the rugs in A-1 condition. And I also bought a solid walnut dining room set of table and four chairs. Are they a beauty. The only solid walnut I could find in town, the table cost \$59.50 nearly \$60.00 but it is solid, not veneer and the best that Sears and Montgomery had was the same in price and were only veneered and they would not guarantee delivery. This is a beauty, soft satin sheen to the wood and every inch is solid walnut except the wood sliders that opens the top so that the extra table leaf can be inserted and it will seat ten people when opened out. It is gorgeous. The leaves hang down by the sides real long and are they ever heavy. The guarantee comes with each piece that they are solid walnut and all ~~main~~ joints mortised and dowed. The chairs are solid walnut to match the table and have tan tapestry upholstered seats. They can be used as an extra straight chair at the desk, one in the bedrooms and one for living room or in the dining room. Now comes the curtains shall get a coffee table for the front of the davenport so that I can have a magazine or book on it and the pair of hands holding a rose or flower and so that you can lay on it and read and then lay your book down and turn over and go to sleep and then one end table by the overstuffed chair in the living room. I'm not going to do anything to change the bedrooms only to clean them up and new curtains for Mother's room. So I hope I get all this done before you get home in March or April. I am going to have a busy time ahead of me. Also I will have to start studying for my driving test again. I will have to take the written test over. I don't intend to do a lot of driving but I want to be able in case of an emergency to handle the car. I know that when Aunt Lily gets down or something happens to her that I will have to go up there and that is the reason I spoke to this sailor Lad. I will check him up at the base and also where he lives to find out if he rates high enough to associate with him in that manner. I was talking with Edith just now and she sees him around there and she said so far she has not seen or heard anything out of the way about him. He lives close to her in the same block. I can drive myself on our short drives to Agency and things like that but if I have to go up to Des Moines on sick call or something like that for Auntie I would rather have someone go with me. I could not go for but a few hours when I do go.

Well Bobby is sitting here by me now. He is my Pal. He wants to go out all the time because he saw a little black dog.

The sun is shining now and I have to take a bath and do some mending before I can go to church and I will mail this letter then. I hope you get it promptly but if you have moved I suppose it will be held up. I am anxious for your next letter to know whether you have moved or not, as you said you hoped that you moved by Sunday. The troop trains sure have been going by here thick and fast. Lots of soldiers being moved east. I look for a big spring offensive as it looks like they have started it on Germany and Italy already. Old Hitler is beginning to hide out now and leaving his bragging to be done by the Under Dog of his tribe. Well I pray how soon they are all over with, The French are showing him plenty of trouble in their uprisings and will show him a lot more when our men begin to bomb Germany, France and the other countries. We will have more and more on our side.

I do hope you got your gas tickets so that you could have a nice big ride today and also get back and forth with your friends at Greensburg. What you don't need or want to keep you can send back home but they are good until March 22nd and you may have a chance to use them yet somewhere. I would like to see the country down there and the stores and antique shops and all the different things. You will see sights when spring comes and I want you to get out on the Azealia trails and see those beautiful Azealia blooms, ~~the~~ they grow so large and magnificent down there in their natural home, up here we only get the little potted plants of them. After a fashion the south will be beautiful.

You will have a lot to talk about and remember in this trip. In a way I am glad for you and in some others I am not for I know home would be the best sight to you but learn all you can and see all you can while you can and it will do you good. You will say, "When I was down south". Bless your heart little boy and hurry home to Bobby and me and God keep you well and safe for both of us. We are so lonesome for you. The house seems so strange so empty and of not much use without you here. I am longing for milder weather and spring. Tomorrow will be Feb. 1st already and it is a short month so I am hoping to hear that you will be coming home soon. And also I pray for the time when you are coming home to stay and won't have to go back there again alone, the next time I hope I can go back with you.

Well I must get busy while I can use some sunshine to work by and I must get off to church tonight. I am so hungry to go. Well now I will say So long to my little Sailor with the Navy Blue eyes, yes, I am proud to say, "My Little Minister" too. God Bless you and give you more of the Holy Ghost and fire in your life to spread his message. Write as soon as you can and here is worlds of love and kisses for my little boy Blue.

Love -

Mother

Bobby John

Ottumwa, Iowa.

Feb. 1-43

Dear Little Boy:-

Here I come dragging in again and dragging is just the word that I mean. This is only Monday and I am down and out already. What a trying day this has been in every way. Orders, orders, orders until I had to run to the bank and eat my dinner by gulps and then go to the Court House and I paid the whole year's taxes while I was there so that would be off of my mind in the Fall and while I had the money on hands. I wanted to get seat covers for the car but I decided to pay the taxes right now all at once and be easy in my mind for that part. They were \$28.44 on the home and \$2.18 on your lot #13 and \$3.64 on lot #3. Then I ordered from Lane Bryant two dresses, two slips, no it was three dresses and two slips and a pair of shoes which came to \$27.11. Then where does the money go. This job is not going to be so economical until I get a lay out of clothes so that I can keep clean and appear decent. I have been wearing the sweater each day that I sent for and that takes a lot of dirt off of my dress but when it gets warm enough to lay it off then is when I will have to have more than one. The belt buckle and the buttons are wearing thro on this one and it is all that I have for good too so I feel pretty crumby going to church with this dirt filled dress and the front looking so rusty. So I blew myself to one dress which was \$8.95 and one which was \$7.89 and then a common crepe dress for the store which was \$2.98. I hope Lane Bryant is able to fill the orders. It is a fright to get anything anymore. To get the material and have then made would cost me as much or more than to buy the dress and I just don't have the time or the nerves left any more to sew. I am so nervous tonight and my hands and legs tremble sometimes until I think that I will fall down.

My right temple has hurt me all day so that I can't even think straight and I cough until I think my head will burst. Mrs. DeVol said today, "I see you still have your cough" and I told her that it had me just about worn out. When I went down into the basement last night one of the new young girls that they have in the choir now had my robe on so I just went up stairs and set down in the audience and was glad of the chance but Sister Welshon's came up and told me to come on down and get into my robe and I asked her to let me off but she said "NO" so I went in the choir but I would be glad to be out of it. I geuss I was their main stay on the song they sang anyway. Everyone wanted to know where I had been keeping myself and said that I was looking bad. Sister Taylor said she heard that I had been sick and said that she thought I didn't look a bit well and hadn't been looking well for some time but she don't know the half of it either.

We had a terrific rush right at closing time and then is when it takes fast hand work and brain work to get anything done. Mrs. DeVol fooled around enough today to keep me from getting the meat tickets added up and things like that done and of course people are just pouring money in on their accounts today. I banked over \$300.00 today and then brought back \$80.00 just in loose change and for several days at the first of the month the money will be coming in on accounts. There is three different entries when anyone pays on account and bills paid out there is two and cash is another and then expense accounts and things like that is more besides each individual sale of meat to be added up and then the clerks charge sales are all added up for the day. The cash at the meat counter has to be counted every night and the driver checked in, milk and pop bottles credited to accounts, C.O.D. checked up and marked paid and recorded in a book and then a file of short accounts besides and then I sell the candy, gum and cigarettes for cash and charge accounts, etc.

I just drink a cup or two of coffee for breakfast and hardly ever eat dinner and when I get home of an evening I am so tired and nervous that I just drink some of the coffee left from breakfast which I put in the thermos bottle and maybe munch some cheese crackers. If I would eat a meal or anything it would com up just as soon as it hit my stomach.

The weather is fairly mild and bright but cold, the wind is sharp and penetrating. There is a lot of ice on the streets yet and the sidewalks. The most people have been hurt and had bones broken this winter. When I get the taxes all paid now it will be clear sailing for me after I get the smaller things like the curtains and a small table or two. I am not in any hurry to get them. I don't have so much out of my wages when the social security is taken out of 17¢, and the Victory tax which is 5% over twelve dollars and my car far which is 12¢ a day and if I go to town at noon it is 10¢ more making 24¢ a day and then my lesson of \$1.00 a week. I hope I get the allotment by sometime this month and then I can get the tables and pay your income tax out of that. Oh yes then the tithe of \$1.70 a week so count out and see what I have left from \$17.00. It just takes \$4.44 out of mycheck \$12.56 left for food, clothes, lights, phone water and then the first of May the insurance weekly payments will begin. I am paid up on the weekly insurance until April 26th. So there you have it in a nutshell. Then there is household supplies to buy such as soap cleansers and things like that. Well I will be all set in clothes except another pair of good shoes. My other are O.K but I am going to get another pair before these good to looking bad and also before the price goes up and rationing my go on. I am wearing my heavy oxfords which I got from Sears and which I sent you a picture of for work now. I have had to have them halfsoled and new rubber ~~is~~ lifts put on the heels and boy do they stick you for a little paper then lift of rubber, 40¢. Well I hope I keep my job and am able to pay my own way. But I hope this cold weather lets up so that the coal pile will not go down so fast.

Hear the Zepher going by now? I hope it has a letter on it for me. I can't hardly wait until tomorrow to see if there is one and it will be so long all day waiting to get home to see if there is one here for me. I hope it brings good news about your eye. When I get the \$1000.00 policy in March I am going to put most of it in Savings account.

Bobby is whining already for me to go to bed. He makes me so nervous when he does that, and my head hurts me so much tonight anyway. Just a little fresh cold goes right to my head and I have the sinus that makes me so that I can't hardly see.

Did you get your gas tickets O.K? I hope you get to use them there in Greensburg. I must get the car out as soon as possible and take a little ride in order to move the tires around. I haven't had it out since Vernon took me over to get the tires checked. Well I am waiting now for the ~~big~~ rugs to come, then I will pay the balance of \$144.04 on them. I paid \$100.00 down and if they don't come to suit me they will refund the money. They are beauties believe me and with the walnut table and chairs sitting on them they will ~~ix~~ both look geor gorgeous. You will say "Whee" when you see them, and they all are for the happiness of my little boy. The little boy who worked all day and then toiled around home here so patiently and kindly for his home and Mother. Oh dear God wow I wish I could see you now and hold you close and tight to me. When I see the boys your age in their sailor suits how my heart aches, how I want you. My brown eyed sailor lad was in this evening. I just got to say "Hello" and then "Good Night" as he went past me to the door with his kind smile. Something like that does a lonely Mother's heart a lot of good at the end of the day.

He was going to drive me down to the bank today but he got stuck with some orders and I took the bus. He is truly a clean fellow, he does smoke but never swears or makes smutty remarks like the old butcher does. He just makes me sick at the stomach. Believe me he has laid off of me and I told Mrs. DeVol today that his swearing made me sick and his hanging around when I was working and that I sent him back to stay behind his meat counter and also the Mr. Brough told him to go on back there and leave me alone while I was busy making up the cash, etc. There is another old man who knew Dad that comes in there and hangs around and gets in everyones way and hangs right up in front of me and talks and asks questions until I could scream. Brough knows that I have no time for young or old men when they become a nuisance. I am kind and agreeable with all but I don't want them hanging around me. I'll tell you a fine fellow that comes in and that is Oscar Stoltz and his wife too, they are connected with the Walter T. Hall candy Co. He is Hall's son-in-law. They are one of our ace high customers and their children are so nice too. Well so much for that.

The news is over now and it is 10:30 so off I go to bed with my wittle, bity whiny doggie. He is so sweet and I just love the stuffens out of him. He sure is a spoiled baby if ever there was one. I am so anxious to see how he acts when you come home. I'll bet he eats you up. Well your overalls are ready for you and your shirts so that you and he can have a good old romp and not get your blues all hairy. You are going to have a good picture made for me when you are home, bust and full view. I am going to have a picture of every precious line of your body and face to eat up when I am alone. God willing this will be done.

Now my darling, take care of yourself and watch that eye and if it gets inflamed or irritated the least little bit you have it taken care of, don't put anything off. So now I will say So long and look for your letter tomorrow evening. I hope one comes, even just a line. Do you need more Quickie post cards? Let me know. So now Good night and God Bless you my darling and keep you well and safe for Bobby and me.

Lots of Love
from
Mother

▽
Bobby

