

Nine O'clock.
March. 26-43

My Dear Little Boy:-

Your four letters came today and was I ever glad to get them. It seemed like an eternity since I had heard from you altho it was only two days. I am blissfully alone now and have I ever been making good use of the time. I have my dresses all in shape now, plenty of new hose and lingere to start out with and tomorrow I will get my two new coats and then come home and adjust them if I get the check. First I will take care of the household and home insurance before I come home and I think I shall double it for the next three years on account of these air-planes around here and then too we have the rugs, refrigerator and stove and the dining room outfit besides all the improvements on the home. There is planes day and night flying over and you cannot tell when one will take a nose dive into a house. They were barnstorming and rolling over and all sorts of things today. I watched them as I hung out the washing.

It has been a pretty busy day for me and I am so sore and tired that I don't know whether I am going or coming. I got up and did the usual morning chores and got my breakfast and then went to take my lesson by eleven, then got home and 12:30 started the hot pot and got ready to wash. I washed all the front bedroom curtain all in the kitchen, two blankets, the cover that goes over the davenport and the bedspread in the backbedroom, rugs in kitchen and bathroom, Bobby's quilts and blankets and what things I had dirty. I also carried ashes and put out in front of the garage as it was so muddy and the ruts so deep that it was hard to get in and out with the car. So I wound up with supper at about seven, did the dishes and then took a hot bath and shampoo and rested a while and now I am writing to the most precious person on earth.

If I don't have too much to do on my coats tomorrow when I get home I am going to wash the car when the sun is the warmest. It was only 50 degrees above today but yesterday it got up to 60 above. I hope tomorrow is warmer. I have some picking up in the yard to do since the snow and ice is gone but is it ever muddy and soft. Mr. Myers sure did a clean job with the trees. I'm so glad that I was able to get him. I should have carried the cans across the road but I was just too tired to do it today. I did want to go to church tonight as I haven't been able to go all week and this is the last week. Maybe I can go tomorrow night. Sunday they are going to have a meeting in the afternoon and evening at the Colesium. The Navy Mothers are invited to attend in a body and sit on the platform and he is going to tell about the sinking of the Yorktown in detail. I don't think it will be very much of a thrill, in fact I would rather not hear of it because we are having reports of so many of the boys from Ottumwa being missing and killed that it gets me all upset.

I too feel that your leave will be coming before long. I just had that feeling to come to me when I went to bed Sunday night and I feel it so strong that I am just working as fast as I can to get things all in shape. I paid the rent on the deposit or ~~vaunt box~~ vault box at the Bank so that will go for another year from next summer, I just forget the month whether it is June or August. I must look at the receipt again. I am getting everything together in a pile that we will want to take back with us., and I am not getting any more coal when this is gone because I don't want to leave any in the basement to cause trouble. With it being closed up and any dampness which we always have in there at times the fine coal may take a notion to burn right in the coal bin. I could spend a good two days in the basement cleaning it up and will if I can find the time. I will try to get the electric plate mailed out to you tomorrow if possible, if I can't I will Monday without fail. I think that will be nice for you to eat that way until you get tired of it and then you can go out once in a while for your breakfast or some meal for a change.

I sure got a thrill out of your description of the place. What a time we will have rambling over all these hills and seeing things from that tower up high.

[The page contains extremely faint and illegible text, likely due to low contrast or overexposure. The text is arranged in several paragraphs across the page, but no specific words or phrases can be discerned.]

That lake with bass in it sounds good to me too. I wish I had one of those bass casting bugs now. I came near to getting one last summer just in case we get to go over to lake Fisher again and then I didn't so if I had it now I would be all set with a new line to pull in some good ones. Eh? Laugh if you want to.

Yesterday I went to town to get my five lbs of sugar and a pound of coffee and I spent 24 points and have 24 more to spend before the month is over. If there is anything to get that you can use and is rationed you have to use these before the last of the month. I got four jars of what used to be called perk and beans but they don't have any perk in them any more. I got some material and made me two new slips. I looked for ready made ones but they were like slips all right but pillow slips and they would just burst out at the seams so I got the material and came home and made me some big enough to sit down in. Anything but having to sew up slits all the time.

Wish I was with you tonight so that we could sit up on the hills close to the stars and look over the valleys and listen to the night sounds. The little frogs are talking here now and the air is just full of all kinds of birds. I heard a Meadowlark today and did it ever sound good to me. You should see how fast the buds are swelling on the maple tree over in Barten's. Oh, yes the old man will be coming home now at any time. I thought this would be his last time out there and didn't look for him to come back but Evelyn tells me that he will be coming now most any day. I'll bet that old devil lives to be as old as his father ahead of him.

You simply thrilled me with the description of that pitcher and tumblers in milk glass. I'll bet that is something that this town will never see around it. Say do you know that I wrote you that I had your hobnail blue plates? Well why don't you say something about it or don't you feel interested? They sure are beautiful. Duncan glass. The hobs make little bumps all around the edge of the plate instead of just a smooth edge. Just wait until you eat ice cream and cake off of them and Cecea Cola in those beautiful tumblers and have the ice cream in the sherbert dishes. Yum, Yum. I will get a kick out of prowling around in the store down there. I presume they have so many different things than we do and live so much more different too.

Here comes the Zepher. I am watching for the one that you will be coming in on. A freight is going up the hill and it sounds a little bit like we were going to have rain. However the night is perfectly clear but it has been that way of night and then in the morning it would be foggy and cloudy until noon and after. It clears up in the afternoons then and is real pleasant.

If you can find a place where we can eat and I can sleep, I will take down beans and things like that to fix our own meals and then as I empty the jars maybe I can go over to Kentwood to some of the folks over there and can something else up in them to bring home with me later on. You and I could eat together for what it would cost for you to buy just your own meals. You look around before you come home and then I will take the things which we might need for cooking and some canned goods back with me. If I do have to come alone I am going east until I hit highway #61 and then it takes me right on in to Vicksburg, believe it or not. But I am trusting the Lord to send you home now before I have to start and so that we can use 5 and 6 gas tickets if necessary to get there on, but if you tell the ration board here that you will need your car to get to and from the camp and to Kentwood with you will be able to get gas to go back there to Vicksburg on. But you have to go in person to do it so I cannot have that detail done for you.

So sorry to hear about Jim. I hope he gets time to do some serious thinking while in the hospital. This may be a warning for him and the next time something worse may happen. Oh but my nose itches, I know that you are going to be coming before too long and I do so want to have everything taken care of that I can by myself.

Tomorrow I must get a haircut. I sure look like a dog. I am glad that you are getting some of that hair back.

Did you know that John Tray had a boy eighteen years old? Well he has and he is going soon now, he has been to Des Moines and had his physical so he will be leaving very soon. Lance Young died last Sat and was burried Wed of this week.

I don't know any news to tell you of impertance. I am just staying home and working as fast as I can to get things in shape so that we can be on our way in jig time. Carroll did tell me that Lotus is expected home the 28th of this month or soon after.

I am so glad that you have a nice place now and I do hope and pray that you will get to go back to Kentwood if it is the Lord's will. Did you know that on March 24th that you were not only gone for five months but that it was Vernon's birthday too? I think he was another homesick boy. I got a card from him today thanking me for the birthday cards I sent him and saying that he was glad I remembered him. He was 37 years old. You will be 28 before you know it too and I will be 47 in Nov., and brother 57 in August. Well think what all has happened wince we were out there near his birthday time a year ago. Fast work isn't it? Mother would have been 81 this Feb and Dad would have been 83 in Jan.

I saw Bill Tozer staggering past the other day, so drunk that I doubted he could make it home without falling down. He is 83 years old. Some guy if you ask me. He stands up and tells me how he wants to meet peer old Ida in heaven and I would like to ask him if he thinks he is going to get there and give him a good kick in the seat of the pants.

My new garment should be here from Nera's in a few more days. She sent it as a special medical order in order to rush it out. That will set me back \$5.00 but I sent for the three at Lane Bryants and there is only one out of the three that I have had time to fix so that I can use them at all. So I was nothing ahead.

I hear that the colored doctor has been called to service now. I wonder what the people of the town will do for a doctor at night as he was the only one who would make night calls anymore.

Well it is ten and after so I must go to bed and get up early, sprinkle down the clothes and get off to town first thing to see if I can get the check and start the wheels to turning and then come home and iron and mop and wax the bathroom an kitchen. I never saw the kitchen floor so dirty and spotted as it has been the pas past month. Peer Jack has sure got his a-- in a sling and burnt it too but that is what you get for playing with fire. Watch out for your fingers, etc. or you will gets yours burnt too, and folks back here are just waiting to hear that you have fallen for some walled eyed, slick tongued girl down there. Some of them here would sure like to kick the traces but it is too late now.

Well so long now until the next time and now that I have your address I can report better. I am looking for your letter tomorrow and if I don't get that plate off tomorrow I will get it off not later than Monday. Lots of love to you my dear little boy and do be careful. Bobby is in bed and I am going right now.

Love - Love - Love

from

Mother

or Bobby

Tuesday Morning.
March. 29-43

Dear Little Boy:-

Here it is a beautiful windy spring morning with the temperature 55 at eight. I see that Harold and Edith are getting the house opened and aired out so the old man must be due pretty soon. He evidently is coming home in April too. What a month for coming home with the whole world of nature waking up from her long cold winter sleep. The buds sure are swelling and how the flowers are growing. The elms will soon be shedding their little brown shells off of the buds.

Well I went to town yesterday and got my coats. They are very nice for the money and the way things come in these times. I got a black one and a beige one, I had ordered the black one in Navy blue but let me tell you that you don't get what you order any more. I will have to shorten the hems and the sleeves. I tried to work on them last night but I just could not see to do a thing by lamp light on the black one.

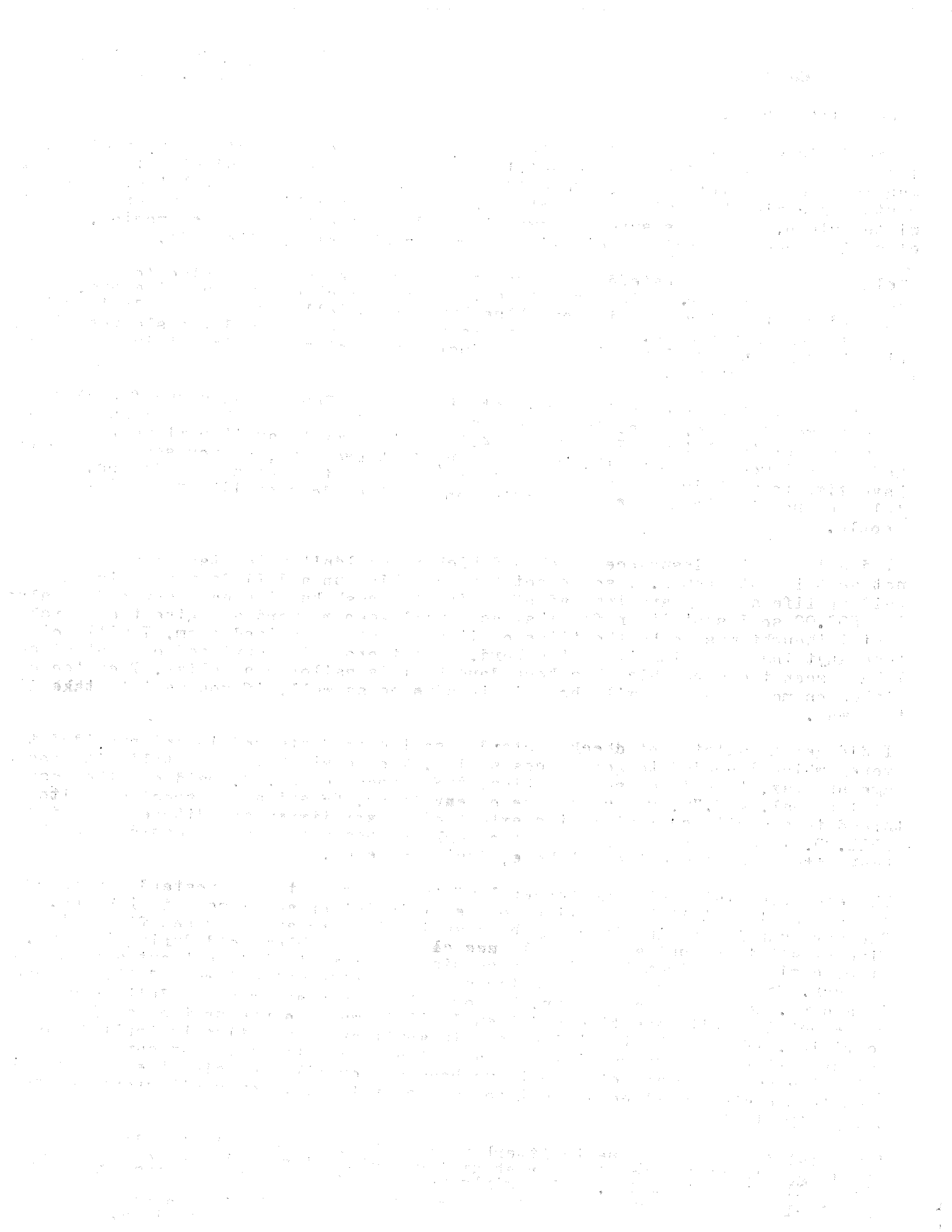
About the first of the month I will start packing. Don't that sound funny? It does to me I'm sure. Mrs. Ash came yesterday and wanted to know how much rent I wanted for the lot and I told her \$4.00 so they will pay it next week as he had a short week of only \$13.00 this week, just two days, so you see how he will have time to work in the garden and that will keep the weeds down for us. I told her not to plough the horseradish up and they do seem like very nice young people.

I didn't get the insurance check and Rickard couldn't understand why they had not sent it out from N.Y. so he got busy checking up and finds that this is a paid up life at 20 years instead of paying the cash but the cash surrender value is \$500.00 so I sent it in for that as I will keep my word and give the church what I thought was to be the tithe on it and what I promised them. I will not lose anything by giving it to the Lord. I am thoroughly convinced of that since I have seen the work which has been done by this sailor evangelist. Then too our tithes on money to come will be paid in advance as well, if you want to ~~take~~ it that way.

I did get my allotment check yesterday so the Lord stepped in and provided the money which I needed to get my coats with. They cost \$29.00 all told with postage and tax, then I got some hankies, 56¢, groceries \$2.77, paid off the last of the coal. \$17.70, got a package of envelopes, 5¢ and a 10¢ spool of white thread to sew with so that is the extent of my ~~spenditures~~ expenditures out of the \$111.00. I got four more jars of the perk and beans so that we could take them back with us or leave them at home, just what ever.

The electric plate and some tender leaf tea was sent to you yesterday morning so you should get it by the time you get this letter and I sent it insured. The warm sun is pouring in on my back as it sit here and I am not fixing the fire at all today unless it should ~~own~~ cloud up and blow cold during the day. After coming home from town it was so nice and warm that I went out and washed the car. Bobby had to go with me too and lie inside while I washed it. he sure is a card. How he loves the car. He couldn't understand why I didn't go some place but I didn't have time and then I didn't want to use up the gas just to go riding. If you come the third week in April or at any time in April I want to have all the stamps possible on hands that I can to use. I am sure you can get extra gas after we get down there because you will be using the car to drive down to the storage place at Kentwood and over to N.O. for small stores or some thing like that.

I was talking on the phone to Atterbury when Mrs. Ash came to the door so I didn't get to finish telling her about the music but she will save some and I will call her again today. Five girls were saved in Sister Taylors Sunday school class Sunday morning and they are going to have their separate prayer meetings.



Sunday was a great day with the evangelist and Hudgens was home again. It is easy for him to slip down home from Great Lakes at Chicago when he gets a 48 hr leave. You could do that too if you were near home. This winter has sure been a dirty hard long cold one and I hope it is all over now for I never want to put up with another one like it. Maybe I can find work down there, I sure hope I can and make my own expenses. I dropped aunt Lilly a card that we would not be up in March and I haven't heard from her since. I am afraid that she is sick. I just look for her to leave us at any time for this year she was 73 years old and it is just a case of any time now.

#3 just came in and of course I had to get up and go look to see if you might be on it. I guess that I am silly to think it knowing that you can't come until April sometime but I will be like that from now on until you do get here. I went to bed before ten last night but sleep I could not for lying there and thinking and thinking what is the most important thing to do before I leave and what I will do the next day so I heard the clock 12:30 and I decided that I had better stop thinking and go to sleep. I finally did but woke at seven.

Before the 5th I will have to go pay the light bill and then the reading will be small after that. Kids are having their spring vacation now and I see big gangs of them going hiking. It gives me the spring fever to get out myself and see the highways and byways but I won't attempt it for more reasons than one. Verla was telling me yesterday that Jr. left A.W.O.L and got home New Years day so the just got in the car and took him up and put him in jail for safe keeping until he was sent back. Is he ever making a fool of himself. He is out in Colo. now. He and another boy by the name of Covert here in town left together and came home together and the camp had notified his mother of his deserting and so when he landed home she took him to jail. He did it because he and his wife got into it about her going to Cedar Rapids with a girl he didn't like so he told her that if she went up there that he would leave A.W.O.L. which he did and now he won't get any furlough.

Alta Dial and her daughter-in-law was due home last night from the camp in Miss where Raymond is and they only get to see him once after going down there. Ralph and all his bunch is quarentined in with scarlet fever. I guess Alta has been down to Miss twice. No, I believe the other time she went to see Ralph when he was in the hospital with pneumonia.

Well it is getting around time for the mail man to come and I must close this letter and get it out there in the box. I had quite a chat with him yesterday morning and he will forward all first class mail to your address until I send him one for myself. The other things I am going to ask Mr. Loomis to take care of for me and I don't think there will be anything of importance as I will pay Breneman for household insurance before we go and have everything lined up of major importance and then those whom I expect to hear from I will let know where I am.

Rickard sent the policy in by air mail last night and the check will be back in about ten days or about the 10th of April. See the Lord knows best about our going time. He knew these things were coming up and has made the rest to work with it. All things work to gether for good to them who love the Lord. The check or policy never would have amounted to \$1000.00 until I died. Wouldn't that be nice or would it? Vernon must have hoped that something would come up that I would die. I can't get over how hateful and unreasonable he was about the policy which is paid up in Nov. Well I will just send the check back to the company because he cannot have the benefits of what Mother and you and I have done without to keep the insurance paid up and going all these years. I see that Art or someone has used his car and pused the rear of it in and broken the rear window. It sets out in front all the time and they are all living together like a pack of rats since he has gone.

Well he wanted love so bad and I hope he gets his belly full of it. I think Jack has his pretty well filled up on it too. He would like to be back with Mother and independent in his living. Well when they don't listen they will have to feel and sit on the blister good and plenty.

The man taking the census for the city called yesterday, so even that is taken care of before I leave. Ha. Ha. I hope I haven't overlooked anything and that I get everything all done so that we will not have to write back and forth and worry about something while we are together trying to have a little happiness.

I sure was tickled about what you said in the letter regarding your location down there for at least another year. That sure did sound good to me. Sister Noland called yesterday too and I asked her to come along and go back with us that far and then over to Ala. to her daughters and she said if he ankle got so she could go out alone that she may try to do that very thing. She wears a banage all the time but even then just a small pebble on the walk throws her. She hopes that it gets stronger soon. She was trying to write to you and Estell both yesterday but didn't know whether she would get it done or not.

Well, well I just must close or Chisman will be slipping up to the box before I know it and then you will miss a day getting a letter. Now I am waiting for you my darling and you are not going to sit in the corner when you come but just go around and around and thre this and that and look here and there and just have a good look see around home and go see what of these that are left in town to see and pack the car and take an old miserable woman back with you. So you won't sit and sit. You will go over to the garden and look around and egerewhere.

Now I must close, I just have to althe I would love to continue telling you how precious you are to me and all that slop as you would put it but just the same it is true. Everyday is drawing you nearer home and making me hurry faster. So now for this time. By By.

*Lots of Love
from
Your Mother
&
Coby*

*Alta Sauer has been sick in bed
for 3 weeks or more.*