

# Your Letter From Home

"They say a sharp nose indicates curiosity."

"Yeh, and a flattened one indicates too much curiosity."

—Los Alamos "Scuttlebutt."

Sent To You With The Best Wishes Of  
 The Fort Dodge Grocery Co.  
 The Fort Dodge National Bank  
 Veterans of Foreign Wars  
 The Gates Dry Goods Co.  
 The Fort Dodge Creamery Co.  
 The Fort Dodge Serum Co.  
 The Tobin Packing Co.  
 The Elks Club of Fort Dodge  
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The Best Wishes Of  
 American Legion and 40 & 8  
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 Rialto & Strand Theatres  
 Brady Transfer & Storage Co.  
 Becker Florists  
 Larry Geer Ballrooms  
 Radio Station K V F D

There are two periods in a man's life when he doesn't understand women—before he is married and after he is married.

—Monterey Fog Horn.

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WRITTEN EVERY FRIDAY

July 20, 1945

☛ **DEAR JOE:** It was dark for awhile during the brown out but now the Betsy Ross sign still blinks her cheery greeting at the top of Central next to the Great Western station. Over south of there, children play and old men sit in the sun on the little park under the water tower. Tierney's, at the corner of Central and 12th, has been closed for a few days—lack of points and everyone tired from too much business—but looks very bright and friendly under a new coat of green and cream paint . . . And everyday it rains, like last Monday, the farmers and their families are in town just like it was Saturday night . . . North of town on 169 Treloar's is closed temporarily—lack of help and points—but no matter how heavy the business Les still gives out with that familiar grin . . . The teen age pin-ups are wearing their brothers shirts, tails flying in the breeze with overall pants rolled half way to the knee above their bobby sox and saddle shoes . . . Larry Geer looks younger than ever and he still has that way of stopping and inquiring, "Are you having fun?" just as he did when you were here, Joe . . . Steve Constantine still has his cup of coffee and toast at the end of the counter every morning about ten . . . Yep, Adam and Paul and Tony still spend their off hours wandering into each others eateries, cussing and discussing the point sitchasheen . . . Jess Day is still maestro of the movies and one of the easiest guys in the world to get along with . . . Jack Hogan and son Dick still run little Tammany and the friendly discussions go on endlessly . . . The Top Hat, The Hi Ho and Eilers, the Royal 400 and Savage's are still the town's favorites. And when all else closes, yes, there still is Coconut Pete's . . . Thanks, Joe Augustine, for a swell idea . . . Gordon Gammack, of the Register, just came in. He's speaking tonight at Jolley. He says "hello" to Rosette Harp.

☛ **AROUND THE TOWN.** Blue prints of the post war future are already taking shape on Hiway 20 just east of Fort Dodge. A new administration building is going up at the airport. R and L Welding is planning to put up a factory. Coates Stackers and Loaders is putting up an addition. Belmer Brothers are erecting a building where they will manufacture farm gates. The Standard Engineering Company is putting in a machine shop for electric welding. Gus Glazer is getting ready to build a packing plant. Stoner is building an addition to his welding plant . . . Corn detasseling work will begin soon and Floyd Huling, county agent, is scouring the countryside and the town for grandmas and housewives and teen agers, 400 or 500, to do the detasseling . . . The Army Mothers canteen is serving from 25 to 30 boys a day at the I. C. Station. Mrs. J. E. Kearns is in charge. Donuts, coffee, sandwiches, pop, cold milk, cookies and candy bars are all available for free . . . Sargent Machine Company is manufacturing locomotive parts for the Union Pacific . . . Walt Elehart is the newly elected commander of the Legion Post . . . E. E. Cavanaugh has been re-elected president of the art gallery . . . An anonymous Fort Dodger pays for one long distance telephone call a week placed by some mother or dad here to a son or daughter somewhere in the U. S. A. He's been doing it for months . . . The Dodgers defeated Vincent, 2 to 1, last Friday evening; and Sunday took Farnhamville, 16 to 0. The same day, Vincent defeated Manson, 13 to 1; Gowrie defeated Lohrville, 10 to 2; and Pomeroy took Eagle Grove, 6 to 4 . . . Bob Walker, local bus tycoon, has been appointed Studebaker dealer . . . In the Junior Legion tournament ending last Friday, Bancroft, with one of the sweetest teams ever seen in these parts, defeated Manson, 7 to 1, in the final game . . . Tom Roderick has been re-elected president of the local bowlers . . . Yeggs broke into Sylvia's Lunch last Thursday night just east of the tracks on Hiway 20 and took everything but the kitchen stove. They took the safe half way to Coalville, blew it and got nearly \$1000.00 in cash. They also cracked the Victory Lunch just west of the tracks for \$1.50 and some gum. At Kudron's Grocery near the two lunch rooms, they got coffee and beer . . . George Constantine is the new president of the bobby soxers' nitery, the Blue Diamond. V. P. is Rayburn Kruckman; secy., Bev. Holmstrom, and Helen Condon, treas. . . E. L. Berner is new chairman of new state board of watchmakers . . . Garages in Fort Dodge are closing Saturday afternoons during July and August.

☛ **ENJOYIN' MOM'S COOKIN'.** 1/Lt. Jim Tucker, placed by the air corps on the inactive list, is back home and began his civilian life this week as Mr. Jim Tucker, service manager at Swaney Motor Co. . . Tom Donahue, S 2/c, from Norfolk, Va. . . Pvt. James Gilday from Ft. Belvoir, Va. He has been in the Yukon, Alaska, and the Aleutians for three and a half years . . . Lt. Robert Anderson from Salina, Kansas, where he is training as a bombardier. He will go to Harvard, Nebr. . . Pfc. Foster Smiley from Ft. Riley, Kansas . . . Cpl. Paul Henderson, from St. Joe, Mo. . . Sgt. Paul Dahlquist from Holland . . . T/Sgt. Robert Hansen, of Lehigh, from the ETO with the Timber Wolf Division . . . Art Davis, S 1/c, from Miami Beach, Fla. . . Pvt. Robert Halbach from Camp Fannin, Texas, on his way to Camp Maxie, Texas . . . Pvt. Anver Habbab from the hospital at Battle Creek, Mich. . . S/Sgt. Wallace Moore from the ETO . . . Sgt. Allen Groat, of Badger, from Santa Ana, Cal. . . 1/Lt. Jim Dickerson from Okinawa . . . Sgt. Dean Tuel, from England . . . 2/Lt. Howard Gunnerson from the ETO where he served with the 87th Division . . . Ensign John Wold from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., where he is an instructor in advanced naval aviation . . . Pvt. Leland Etzel from Camp Hood, Texas . . . Jack McHenry, Seabee welder, from 27 months in the south Pacific . . . Dale Lindquist, RdM 3/c, of Moorland, from the ETO . . . Pfc. Al Pieper from Elgin Field, Fla. . . Ralph Rutledge, SC 1/c, is back home for good, honorably discharged after long service in this man's war as well as World War I . . . 1/Lt. Bernard Gillespie from a German prison

camp . . . Lt. Leo McCoy from Quonset Point, R. I. . . Sgt. Glen Moen from an army hospital at Galesburg. He was wounded in Italy, Oct. 8th . . . James M. Porter, PO, after one and a half years on Adak in the Aleutians . . . Home for good and honorably discharged is T/3 Gerald Sullivan after 28 months overseas . . . Sgt. J. G. Rutledge, seriously wounded in action in Italy over a year ago, is home for good, honorably discharged . . . T/S Don E. Maxson home for good, honorably discharged after four and a half years with the army air corps . . . Cpl. Geo. Lundgren from England . . . Willard Whitcome, Sig. 3/c, from his ship in Seattle, Wash. He has been overseas in the Iwo-Okinawa area for eight months . . . Louis Conley, S 2/c, from the So. Pacific . . . T/Sgt. Jack Simpson from overseas and James Kelley, RdM 3/c, from the South Pacific. Both are sons of Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Kelley . . . Cpl. LeRoy Roberts from the paratroop training school at Ft. Benning, and Pfc. Roy Kehm from the ETO and a German prison camp . . . Floyd Ferguson home on rotation from 37 months in the Pacific is now honorably discharged and home for good at Duncombe . . . Cpl. George Collins is out of the army, honorably discharged and on his way home from the West Coast . . . Manico Beletti, of Lehigh, is home for good, back from overseas and honorably discharged . . . Ralph "Swede" Sherman is back home for good, honorably discharged, living at 1601 1st Ave. North . . . William C. George, Jr., of Clare, is home for good, honorably discharged. Bill is back on the home farm helping his dad . . . Cpl. Frank Zenor is home for good, honorably discharged after four years and some months in the army. Frank is going to farm. His brother, C. P. Zenor, MoMM 1/c, is home on leave from the Pacific . . . Pvt. Hans Jochimsen is on a 45 day furlough . . . Capt. Dale A. Johnson from overseas . . . Andy Stensrud is out of the army and working at the DuPont plant at Baton Rouge, La. . . Tony Purcell is sitting at Keesler Field, Miss., waiting for a discharge. Tony married Marie De Pew at her home at Baton Rouge, March 10, 1945.

☛ **PORTO RICO.** Capt. John K. Jensen is now at Porto Rico. ☛ **PACIFIC.** It is now Major Lewis D. Baughman, and he is now in Okinawa. Bud was made a Major last month. He is with the 4th Bn. of the 11th Marines . . . Pvt. Clarence LeRoy Harrison, of Lehigh, says "hello" to everyone in his home town, and particularly to his little girl, now eight, who was three when he last saw her. Clarence is in the Pacific . . . Pfc. Dale A. Miller is on Luzon . . . Pvt. Robert McCarville is somewhere in the South Pacific . . . Pvt. Gene Burke now in Luzon with the 32nd Division says "hello" to his folks and to everyone at home . . . Cpl. Earl Wendt has been in the hospital on Luzon with yellow jaundice. Among the Luzon highlights are the prices. Coffee, two bits a cup; a dish of ice cream, seventy-five cents; two slices of bread, thirty cents; and fried chicken, not less than three dollars.

☛ **SMALL WORLD.** At Great Lakes, writes R. L. Ulstad, A/S, "Some of us fellows from Fort Dodge got together in the canteen, Bill Beers, Orville Siverson, Vince Swanson, Bob Martin, Pat Sweeney, Bob Sullivan and myself." . . . Pvt. Carl Loria, Joe Carpenter, Bob Bingham and Paul Jensen are together in the same company at Ft. McClellan, Alabama. Dana Cavanaugh is in Co. A of the same regiment. All are going into the paratroopers when basic is over. "We took another physical July 4th and all passed it." . . . Here is how Pfc. Dan Zuetlaw met an old friend. "I was working on the beach and I saw a boatload of men coming in. I stopped my machine and started talking to some of them. He, Marion Fawkes, of Otho, spotted me and came over and slapped me on the back and said, "Hello, Dan, how are you?" When I turned around I didn't even know him and I was speechless because I was surprised to meet my buddy like that." Dan is in the Philippines.

☛ **DAS REICH.** Pfc. Pat Derrig, writing from Nidda, Germany, says, "We don't have any trouble with the German people. But the slave laborers, they beat hell out of the Germans every night. We had to go out last night about midnight to stop them . . . When Major Glenn Miller and his orchestra played in Passau, Pfc. Rosette Harp, now stationed in Waldkirchen, Germany, was there to hear him . . . 1/Lt. Ray R. Hayden is now in Germany with over a hundred points but is planning on a trip to the Pacific with an anti-aircraft battery. Recalling his high school days, Ray writes, "I claim the distinction of being the first drum major to fall flat on his face in Dodger Stadium. That was the grand opening with my father and mother in the stands." . . . Pfc. Foster Funk is now at Regensburg, Germany, on the Blue Danube river, "Although here it isn't exactly blue." . . . Sweating out 102 points at Gaidorf, Germany, Sgt. Bob Lawson would like to know how's fishing in the Des Moines river. Bob, from what I hear it's just about average. The water's high, the way it has been for several years and it could be better. Thanks, Bob, for the Beachhead News.

☛ **LA BELLE FRANCE.** Cpl. Rex Moore is with the 89th Division in Rouen, France. He is living in a big chateau built away back in 1600. Rex would like to meet any other Dodgers in the neighborhood.

☛ **CHINA.** With twenty-one months overseas, S/Sgt. Ray McCoy is sweating it out in China. He met Vincent Powers a short time ago, the first Dodger since leaving the States. "The Fourth of July was just another day here in China. That evening we had a few firecrackers. Yea, they're legal over here, Ed, not only on the Fourth but the year around." Thanks, Ray, for the snapshots . . . T/3 Harry Brown is somewhere in China. His APO is 280.

☛ **MERRY ENGLAND.** Cpl. W. C. Fontana, of Webster City, is now in London. Sampling his ten thousandth English beer, Walt says, "I hope Larry Geer is still going strong with his Laramar and Expo ballrooms. I really miss those places. Don't let 'em close any of



the parks around town. Ah—more memories!”

☉ **COMING HOME.** Cpl. Joe Ivory is on his way home from the ETO.

☉ **DOWN THE CENTER AISLE.** Dorothy Lueck, of Gowrie, and Capt. Merlyn Baughton, of Hartford, in Des Moines, June 29th . . . Veronica Neuby, of Hawthorne, N. J., and Virgil Bird, EM 2/c, of Lehigh, in Hawthorne, N. J., June 30th . . . Mary Catherine Gilbert, of Phoenix, Ariz., and F. O. Warren Peterson, of Harcourt. No date set . . . Lt. Jessie Poole and Lt. Robert P. Larson, of Rochester, N. Y., in Newport, R. I., May 28th . . . Margaret Griffiths, Urmston, a suburb of Manchester, England, and Pfc. Robert Steyer, sometime soon . . . Anna Lenner, of Omaha, and Gilbert Lindquist, PhM 3/c, in Fort Dodge, June 30th . . . Darlene Michehl, of Duncombe, and Milan Macek, AMM 2/c. No date set . . . Delores Williams, of Britt, and Robert Cunningham, AOM 1/c. No date set . . . Geraldine Hanson, of Viroqua, Wis., and Leonard Thorsbakken, Jr., CBM, at Great Lakes, June 30th.

☉ **SERVICE PAPERS AND INSIGNIA.** The patch of the 15th Air Force from Lt. Frank Sims, now home at Ottumwa. Thanks, Frank . . . The Rampage from Orville Walters, S 2/c, San Diego, Cal. Thanks, Orv. Sometime ago, Orv. met J. Wille in San Diego . . . The 83rd Thunderbolt from Pfc. Rosette Harp, Passau, Germany. Thanks, Rosette . . . The patch of the Advanced Section Communications Zone in Europe and S O S, the paper of the 372nd Engineers in France and Germany, from T/5 Ralph Shelton. Thanks, Ralph. S O S is printed on the backs of German topographical maps of Spain!

☉ **OVER HERE.** Sgt. Maxwell Smith is at Ft. Rosecrans, Cal. . . A/C Bobbie Williams, the poor man's Bob Hope, now doing everything but becoming a flier at Goodfellow Field, San Angelo, Texas, had the pleasure of hearing Glen Gray's Casa Loma band last Wednesday evening. "I was introduced to Glen and what a chin fest we two had! He said hello and I said hello. It's little moments like that a man treasures. Then there was the usual procedure about what I did in civilian life . . . but I finally got him to listen." . . . Pfc. Don Martin is at Las Vegas, Nevada . . . Pfc. Walter Apt is at Japanese Language school at Camp Lejeune, N. C. . . . Glenn A. Christians, SM 1/c, is at Shoemaker, Calif., now the largest naval base in the U S A . . . Lt. Oscar Lunstrum says "hello" to all the folks around Lanyon. He is now stationed at Liberal, Kansas, flying B-24's . . . Lt. Col. Glenn L. Laffer is home for the present waiting the army's order . . . Pvt. Paul Whittington is at North Camp Hood, Texas . . . S/Sgt. John Moore is at Fort Meyers, Fla. . . Jim McMahon now in Bayonne, New Jersey, says "hello" to Al Breen, Camp Fannin, Texas. Jim has been going to school for the past two years. He was at Ames for a year and at Northwestern a year. After this stretch during the summer at Bayonne with the Navy, he'll go to Harvard for his last year and be graduated as an Ensign in the Navy. Jim's brother Don is in the Pacific. Dick McMahon is at Camp Grant and Charles is on his way from the ETO . . . Pvt. J. W. Brown is at Ft. Riley, Kansas . . . Pvt. Howard Grooters is with the Air Corps at Hobbs, New Mexico . . . Lennis W. Bloomquist, S 1/c, is at the Armed Guard Center, New Orleans . . . R. L. "Bob" Andrews, AS, is at Midshipman's School, at Notre Dame, Indiana . . . Vincent A. Crawford, CQM, is now in Ward 86 North, US Naval Hospital, Great Lakes. . . Lt. William Rice, Jr., is now at Lincoln, Neb. . . H. R. "Bob" Hager, AMMF 2/c, is now at San Diego on North Island . . . Chp. Donald G. Lee has been transferred from Rome, New York, to Scott Field, Ill.

☉ **WAR'S GRIM TOLL.** Pfc. Don Derrig died of injuries received in an auto accident July 3rd, in Germany . . . Sgt. L. D. Cobb was wounded in Germany, April 19th. He is now in McCloskey Hospital at Temple, Texas . . . Pvt. Robert O'Connor, wounded in Germany, April 29th, is back in the United States, his condition much improved . . . 1/Lt. Harley Gunnerson, of Gowrie, navigator on a bomber based in the Aleutians, is reported missing in action as of July 12th . . . Sgt. Ron MacKenzie, gunner on a bomber, now missing over a year, is presumed dead by the War Department.

☉ **FROM THE FIVE CORNERS OF THE WORLD.** Joseph Vratny, S 1/c, Peleliu Isle, FPO, San Francisco. "Picked up a program telling of Dick Jergen's Orchestra coming to Peleliu and who should I see on the roster . . . none other than Zeke Zimmer from our fair city. He plays the bass fiddle, and a good job he does, too. Saw the show last night which is one hour and thirty-five minutes long and contained every sort of entertainment imaginable. They kid him in the show by saying, "Zeke here has milked so many cows that when he shakes hands with anyone, he does it one finger at a time." When I told a guy that gave me a ride back to camp that Zeke was from my home town, he wanted to know if it were true that he milked so many cows. Now, I know that Zeke is a city feller, and probably never handled a cow in his life, and told him so. Maybe everyone from the bigger cities thinks that lowans are all milk extractors at one time or another, huh? Well, anyway, yesterday afternoon I took a jeep ride to the camp where he was staying and we had one grand "bull session." Talked about you and your possibilities for a bigger radio station, coach Fred Cooper and his ability to handle men in wrestling, and man to man discussions. Dick Black (worked out in wrestling with Zeke during their High School days), Don Dillman and his basketball eye, and the fellow he worked for as a driver—Carl Jackowell. He knows we'll see each other soon back home to continue our acquaintance and have him see the boy I have back home, which incidentally, I haven't seen yet. I left the states the same day he was born." Lt. Francis T. Collins, 7th Amphib. Force, FPO, San Francisco. "I, too, am out in the Philippines along with a few thousand others. This is my second tour. One in the Aleutians and now this. First, I can't get enough clothes on and now I can't get enough off. All in all, it could be a lot worse. I could be in the army. Haven't run into anyone from Fort Dodge for sometime. Last man was Lt. Carlson, formerly at the International Harvester. He was in charge of the gun crew on an army transport I came out on."

Cpl. Wm. H. Gadbury, APO 40, c/o PM, San Francisco. "Thought you'd like to know how we were spending the 4th over here. Yesterday, the 3rd, we expected to work as usual today as we have plenty of work to do, even on Sunday. But just before lights out last night we were told breakfast would be served at 7:30 instead of 6:30 and that we had the day off today. I was fortunate enough to get a pass to visit Hilo. They had all kinds of parades there that the natives put on. I believe everyone from all the towns around here was there as the streets were really packed. Spent most of the day looking the town over. At the Red Cross, I had my first fizzed glass of Coca-cola since I've left the States. In the register I saw where Charley F. Podlisack, c/o 40 Recon. Troops, had

registered from Fort Dodge. I'll have to look him up as he's in the same division. My pass expired at 6 p. m. so came into camp having to miss the dance at the Red Cross, the two Beach Clubs, and at all the cafes and main restaurants. Certainly wish I were back home today! Guess that's the way it is with all of us. Sure is swell being with the 115th Combat Engineers. Was really lucky on Mindanao when our truck—the one I was riding on—backed over a double tape mine. Sure was an explosion then. We just crossed a bridge we put in in Purple Heart Canyon when we hit it. For 200 yards up the road to the next bridge we took out 40 mines; but, we missed taking out the first one."

Ch. H. G. Belsheim, Oberndorf, Austria. "Besides being in Austria, I am in a dilemma. The fellows might say that the Chaplain needs his card punched. I admit my guilt of negligence with the valuable. Here is my difficulty. Yesterday, I joyfully sat down to read the June 22nd copy of YLFH. I was called away from my desk, and when I returned the valuable document was gone. I think either our maid or my assistant inadvertently destroyed it. If I solemnly promise to exercise greater care with future copies of YLFH, would it be possible to receive a duplicate of June 22nd, as I don't like to miss any home town news. I am enclosing with this letter a copy of our "Rainbow Reveille." It is a little ancient, but I haven't a more recent copy here. Thanks again to you and to the sponsors of YLFH. I know that all of us appreciate it very, very much. We are grateful to all those who make the letter possible and we view with humble admiration your unexcelled editorial and literary ability which is so apparent in each and every issue. So, thanks again." H. G., it's on its way. And thank you for "Rainbow Reveille."

Pvt. Eugene Taylor, Hermanskirkl, Germany. "I think we have the longest record for an artillery outfit for straight combat time with no rest in the ETO. We were in combat in the Lorient and St. Nazair pockets of France for 238 days. And believe me, I will take combat anytime in place of occupation. The last ten days I have been trucking displaced people. They were Russian slave laborers and have been working as slaves for these Krauts for three to five years. Some of them are a pitiful sight. As you all know, we aren't allowed to talk to or buy anything from these people. In other words, it is no fraternizing. If you are caught, out comes 65 slugs worth of marks. If there are any Dodgers, boys or girls, around Trier, Germany, I would sure like to know it. Three years in service and I have seen one soldier from Fort Dodge and that was John Halligan from Moorland. Here is a plug for Moorland, my dad is mayor there. I will be looking for those pictures you are having made. My outfit is stationed in a large school. We live pretty good. It is so peaceful and quiet and beautiful in these mountains and valleys, one wonders why people have to kill and be killed. Since being in the army I have been in old Mexico, England, France, Luxembourg. But this country is the prettiest I have seen yet."

Cpl. Bob Hale, APO 788, c/o PM, New York, N. Y. "I came over last July, docked at Suez, went overland to Cairo. From there, I went to Hobboniga, in Iraq, near Bagdad. Everything was fine. I had a good job and liked it 'til one day a radiogram came and I was rushed off to Cairo on a super special secret mission. Destination unknown. I stayed in Cairo for six weeks waiting and then they gave us civilian clothes and our passports and shipped us off to, wonder of wonders, Turkey. I was the only one of my group to go and I was flattered because they send only their best men on these missions. For five months I operated a secret station for the state department. In the meantime, they installed a sizeable air ground and point to point station here so when the war in Germany folded up, I stayed on in order to work the A. A. C. S. station. The climate here is a lot like Missouri's. The food is good. We live in an eight room house, and everything is hepir thamum. The pay is good, nine dollars a day over our army pay and I like that very much, too. I wonder how the poor civilians are doing."

Cpl. Dick Purkapile, Guam, APO 234, c/o PM, San Francisco. "Since I last wrote to you I have spent three weeks in the hospital here on the island. Had an operation and everything turned out okay. Sure was treated swell and it didn't seem like the army while in the hospital. That is about the only time a guy sees a white woman except occasionally at one of the large amphitheatres here on the island. The first time one of the nurses took my pulse it probably went up ten counts. Even though I haven't been over here too long, it still affects me as it would anyone else. They do treat a fellow darn nice though, and I give them every praise there is for the work they are doing to make everyone well to return to civilian life. Well, Ed, last Monday I got a Letter From Home and read where Dick Jurgens and his all Marine show was coming to the Pacific theatre. One of the boys in the barracks was telling us that it was showing at one of the amphitheatres here on the island that evening so we requisitioned a truck and went to see it. Got there early so I looked up Zeke Zimmer who plays a bass fiddle in the band and had quite a bull session of the old days. I knew him back when we went to school together. That has been quite some time ago, but we made out okay. The show was one of the best I've seen since I've been in the service and I praise all the fellows in the band." Thanks, Dick, for the Jergens program.

And there were other grand letters and cards from Pfc. William T. Quealy, APO 214, c/o PM, New York, N. Y. . . T/5 Theodore E. Hayek, APO 403, c/o PM, New York, N. Y. . . Carl E. Theiss, WT 2/c, c/o FPO, San Francisco . . . Pvt. Melvin A. Lillig, APO 21099, c/o PM, San Francisco.

A hasty look says I haven't said anything about the weather. It's been wonderful. We had a million dollar rain Sunday night and more of the same Monday night . . . The weather at the lakes last Sunday was perfect. The old Queen is still plowing around Okoboji. I don't know, this might be her last year. But she looked almost as fresh as her paint. So I sent post cards of her to everyone I could think of. Manhattan Beach is still de luxe for swimming and the Inn has had a complete overhaul and face lifting. Looks very fancy . . . Cottages are scarce. Rented solid clear up to September. The lake has many new cabin cruisers. They look kinda silly to me but people like them. Fishing has been fair to middling up there and we saw lots of fishermen out with their gear . . . Sunday's sail boat race was a thriller with a smart breeze all the way. For almost half the distance the five boats were as straight in a line as a file of soldiers on parade . . . Hope we'll all be up at Okoboji or Spirit or Clear Lake or somewhere you like this time next summer. Be seeing you.

Your home town correspondent,  
Ed Breen.