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Ferris Industrial School of Delaware

BOX 230

Wilmington, Delaware

Monday, June 21, 1943

Dearest Lee:

We all stayed around the house all evening yesterday in the hopes that a phone call would come through from you, and I awoke several times in the night thinking of you. In this morning's mail I received the snapshots of you in the plane and notice they were mailed on Friday. When you called us last Monday night you said to hold up all mail, which we have been doing; but I am sending you this morning in the hopes it will be forwarded in case you have left Lincoln.

I left the house this morning before getting the clippings out of the Sunday papers, but I'll try to do that this evening and keep them for you.

I am still alive after one week of work as daddy's secretary, and think I will like it. This week will be a little more difficult because grandmother Jones went to Aunt Grace's on Saturday to be gone a week or more, which will mean that your two sisters will have to arise before I leave for the office in the morning. Shirley has an application in to work in the office of American Aviation (duPont airport people), but I don't know whether anything will come of it. She has also answered several ads. She doesn't want to work in any store, and of course there is little she can do in an office for she can't type, etc. They want Bernice to help at Vacation Church School at Westminster which begins Wednesday of this week, but I am not sure whether we can arrange the transportation. We don't make as many trips with the station wagon as we used to do.

Mike called me Saturday night. He had been home for a week and was leaving Saturday night to go back to St. Louis. Of course he was asking all about you. Irving Bodycott is home on a furlough, having been transferred from Camp Wolter to the air corps. As yet he does not know where he will be stationed.

This morning's mail brought a letter from Howell Wilkins. He writes "We arrived here to find that the college required freshmen to live in the Beta house and others in either the Phi Kap or Theta Chi House. The four Phi Psi's remaining are rooming in the former library and sleeping the former dining room of Theta Chi. Our house is rented at a loss to non-commissioned army officers, the Phi Deltas to the Molly Pitcher, Kappa Sigma to the Red Cross. Alpha Chi Rho is vacant. By going to classes ten minutes extra each day we have discontinued Saturday classes and we have none any afternoon. We have the equivalent of 18 hours a week plus study. I work four hrs. a day at Masland's (every other evening, every other afternoon)"

Grandmother Minker came out Saturday and stayed over until this morning. I guess you got her card with \$1.

Ben leaves this week for Andover, so maybe Shirley will be able to settle down and decide something about her future after that.

I notice your last two letters were marked Sec. D-1. If you should land in California and call us at 9 o'clock in the evening that would be midnight our time, would it not?

The roses are blooming beautifully just now and we are hoping the Japanese beetles will not be very plentiful this year. Strawberries will be over this week. Delaware berries have been selling this year at \$.50 a box, so we are glad we did not have to buy any.

Tuesday was Dr. Miller's 16th wedding anniversary and we were invited to have dinner with them at Edith Connell's. Dr. & Mrs. Wagner, Dr. & Mrs. Messick were also there. Afterwards we went to see Bataan but I do not like to see that kind of picture.

Well, I must get down to some office work now. I did want to say, however, that I hope you do not get yourself worked up about classification school. I know you have your heart set on being a pilot, -for your sake I hope that things turn out that way. But remember it is no disgrace if, because of eyes or something else, you cannot make the grade. Daddy has something in mind which he will write you about later.

Love and best wishes from all of us.

Mother