

1

Ferris School for Boys Box 230 Wilmington 99, Delaware

September 7, 1943 (Tuesday)

Dear Lee:

This is another scorching hot day, but I suppose it is nothing compared to the weather in the desert. Still we have no rain and haven't had for weeks and weeks. You asked about the garden,- well it is about like everyone else's. Our glads did not do as well as in former years, and I think it was because of lack of rain. It does no good to have the boys water the flowers in the hot sun, and in the evenings I have so much to do after I get home that there is little chance for work in the garden. Marigolds are blooming nicely and I think the nasturtiums have done better than in years when there has been more rain. I planted some Stock [sic] this year and it has come along very well, also.

Today there is a meeting here of all state executives and in a few minutes- at 1 o'clock,- they will have luncheon. Mr. Hamm has to go to Dover to see about two boys who were picked up for larceny and whose trials are today; so I am too busy to even go home for lunch. Word has just come in that I am expected to have luncheon with the executives.

Grandmother Minker has been with us since Saturday and will go home on the 1 o'clock trip. We have had her busy sewing, for with Shirley going away in two weeks there is so much to be done. Maybe Bernice told you that she is to parade as a member of the Jr. A.W.V.S. Thursday night, and I have had to make her a uniform and a cap- similar to an overseas cap. Maybe that wasn't a puzzle to work out.

Your letter written Tuesday evening reached me by airmail Friday morning. If you did not mail it until Wednesday morning you see what good time it made.

We checked with the storeroom but we have no No. 9 gym shoes. They are almost impossible to pick up but daddy is going to see what he can do. Maybe he'll get around to it after this meeting and before I mail this letter.

Yes, your box arrived containing the letters, films, etc. I had your sunglasses fixed on Friday and sent off the box on Saturday. In my rush I could not seem to find the letter in which you asked for shoe equipment, so maybe I did not send what you wanted. The stationery is from your two sisters.

Remeber that we sent back your insurance policy to be corrected sometime in April. Well, it has just arrived this morning, and seems to be alright.

Would you like to have some cookies or anything of the sort from home? If you would let us know and we'll make you some. You know better than we do what would reach you in good condition. Won't the desert "cool off" some with the coming of fall and winter, or is it always the same temperature?

We have just come in from luncheon and I am so "full" I expect I'll be falling asleep at my job this afternoon. We had chicken salad, ham, sliced tomatoes, cottage cheese, watermelon rind, French fried potatoes, hot biscuits, iced tea, lemon ice cream.

2

This Thursday I have an all-day district meeting of the Woman's Society of Christian Service at Scott Church, Wilmington. I have asked Shirley to sing Melott's "The Lord's Prayer" and May will accompany her.

You asked about Ginger,- she is as fine as ever, only just now she looks rather "moth eaten" as she has begun to shed all over the place.

Your two sisters may soon be put on the Ferris School payroll. A week ago Saturday as Shirley was sitting in the living room she saw a suspicious looking boy and called daddy. He and Mr. Hamm in another car began a chase and finally caught the boy. Sunday afternoon Bernice and Walter went down to Dunlap's and on the way saw a boy whom Bernice recognized as belonging here. Whereupon Walter went after him and held him until daddy and Ben arrived. I guess they should both have medals. What do you think?

Mr. Boykin will be back in Wilmington sometime this week I think and of course he will be asking for you. He understands perfectly if he doesn't get answers to all the letters he writes to you.

Best wishes and hopes that you will get cooled off some as you begin your flying this week. It is cooler when you get up a few thousand feet, isn't it?

Love.

Mother

We can't get gym shoes -- so I guess you'll have to buy them there.