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Ferris School for Boys Box 230 Wilmington 99, Delaware

November 15, 1943

Dear Lee:

We received your letter of Thursday this morning. You certainly have a busy schedule.

I was planning to send you a box for Thanksgiving and will try to get it off early this week. If you receive it ahead of time you can keep it for that day if you care to. You never mentioned receiving a box just before you left Phoenix. I mailed it so it would reach you for Hallowe'en. Did you receive it? It contained cookies and a box of caramels.

We had our first snow on Armistice Day, but it soon melted. It looks as though we might have some more today.

I was over to A.I. Wednesday for visiting day and have a chat with Mr. Yingst. He says there will be a duPont Echo coming out for Christmas and a copy will be mailed to all the boys in the service. I sat in on Bernice's French class and then went to Assembly. She sang a solo "We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessing" with the choir humming as a background, and did very well.

Shirley writes that her Christmas vacation is not scheduled to begin until December 22. I don't know how long it will last. The government is urging colleges to plan for a month's Christmas vacation, so that the necessary traveling of students will not be around Christmas and New Year's Day.

Daddy has a birthday next Monday, November 22, and Bernice's is the 24th. If you can write daddy a nice letter to reach him on that day I am sure it would please him as much as anything you might send. You are not near any town to do any shopping, are you, even if you had time to do so? So don't worry about Christmas shopping. If you want to send me some money to get gifts for the family and your grandmothers I will be glad to take care of it for you. Do whatever you like.

I'll talk to daddy about the wrist watch. Can they be bought on the post, and if so how much would one cost? If they can it might be better to work it that way, with us sending you a check, for you know just what you want. If that is not possible you'll have to tell us exactly what you would like for we do not know. The girls want mostly clothes and I am sure you could not get them. I did think if you remained in Phoenix you might be able to pick up some Indian jewelry for them, but I guess that is out now. Are you near any town or city, and if so how near?

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If I can get the materials together I want to bake some fruit cake. Would you like me to send you one of those for Christmas and do you want any particular kind of cookies in your Christmas box?

Daddy helped to dedicate a service flag yesterday afternoon at the Legion Home. Many of the former Silverbrook boys were represented of course. He stopped at the Whiteside's for a visit. Three of the Whiteside boys are now in Italy.

Would you be at all interested in a silver identification bracelet for Christmas? Your sisters want to know. I know you have never been one to dress up in jewelery [sic], so if you are not interested just say so.

Now I must get a letter off to Shirley. Lots and lots of love from everybody.

Mother