

1

Thursday afternoon

November 25, 1943

Williamsport, Pa.

Dear Lee:

Well, here it is Thanksgiving Day and it's beautiful here. The sun is shining brightly and the air has just a good tinge of crispness in it. I got up at nine o'clock and went to church with several other girls. There was only a short, simple service but it has started my day off right. We're having our turkey dinners about 12:45 and the most delicious smells are coming from the kitchen right now.

Last night after dinner we got our monthly marks. I got A's in Biology, Typing, Shorthand, and Chemistry! But if you ask me, here's my worst. I fell down to a B in English. We changed teachers at the end of last

2

month and I guess this one doesn't think I did as well as Mr. Graham did. I'm tickled about my chemistry, though. As you know, I didn't have any high-school chemistry but they said I'd be alright if I took an extra class of the stuff. Mother will be awfully glad to see that, I know, because she rather worried about the whole subject.

I think that most of the teachers clamped down on the marks this time after giving us a few weeks to get adjusted. That seemed to be the general feeling here in the dorm last night and quite a few of the girls really did get pretty bad marks. So, as we could go out last night until 10:30, I got about 7 or 8 of us together and we all went to the movies. We went to see Mickey and Judy's "Girl Crazy" and it was just the right kind to see. It had T. Dorsey and his band in it and was like their

3

usual run of pictures, light and Gershwin music. Everybody felt better after that and when we came back to the dorm, we had just about forgotten there was such a thing as marks.

Mother said in one of your letters that you had to have your wisdom teeth filled, I mean pulled. That certainly is some ordeal, isn't it? Do you have to keep on your regular schedule today? The cadets all have to go to school here today and that means the teachers have to, too. The teachers only have Christmas day off

and, as that is on Saturday, that isn't much of a vacation. We think we have a lot to gripe about but when I look at other people, I realize I don't.

Mother, Bernice, and daddy went to New York this week, did you know that? They must have had a wonderful time! Mother and Bernice went shopping and then went to Radio City. Sometime I hope we can all go there together, that would be wonderful, wouldn't it? They also had dinner at the Smorgasborg, that favorite haunt of dad's and that was fun too, I bet.

Have you got your Thanksgiving box yet? When I talked to mother last Sunday, she said she had just mailed it. I haven't got it yet and I'm beginning to be worried. Maybe I'll get it tomorrow because we don't have any mail delivery today. Oh, by the way, we have to put the P.O. District number on our mail now, and it's #36. You don't have to write anything but Dickinson Junior College, Williamsport, 36, Pa., and I'll get it alright without all the rest.

4

You asked me about presents for Bernice and daddy in your last letter. As I thought about it, the idea came to me that I could get them something if you wanted me to. You get some ideas and I'll get whatever you want for them. Bernie and I are giving mother a place setting of the Spode she is collecting, if that helps you any.

I was glad to read in the paper that Katherine Maxwell is married. I don't know the fellow though, do you? Mother said Ruth Collins and Graham Taggart were married, not so long ago, too. Do you get much news from any of the boys in your class?

Have you heard very much from Judy since she went to Oberlin? I only got one little post-card from Havaing the first week that she was there. They certainly must be awfully busy or I don't know what else to think. Is Judy going home for Christmas? They only have five

5

days, but I think May is coming. Delaware has off from the 18th to the 10th of January. Everybody will be home before I will and I have to go back sooner, too. Ben gets out on the 15th of December so I guess he'll meet me at the station. There are about 20 of us who take the train to Harrisburg and then to Phila. so I'm sure we'll have lots of fun. Dinner is going to be served in 5 minutes so I'll be leaving you for a while.

PAUSE FOR DIGESTION

Boy, we had a dinner that was just like the ones we have usually at home. We started off with grapefruit junice, then came turkey, stuffing, sweet and white

potatoes, with cranberry sauce and gravy. Then we had ice-cream, mince pies, candy, fruit, and nuts. We all brought things up to our rooms with afterwards because

6

we couldn't let anything go to waste. I'm so full now I think I'll go to sleep now and maybe I'll feel better.

I got Ben an album of Gershwin records for Ben for Christmas. They're played by Eddy Duchin and quite good, I think. He has so many records and other things that I wasn't sure what to get him. Do you think that he'll like those?

This week we started rehearsals for the Christmas pageant. It's to be given the night before we go home for Christmas. One of the teachers wrote it and it's really going to be very good. I have to sing in it and Timmy has a part too. We have a big banquet before the play. Afterwards the whole school has a Christmas party and then we come back and have our separate dorm parties. Most of the kids don't go to bed, at all, and then go caroling at 5:00 in the morning. This is what they did last year and everyone says we'll do it again so it should be fun.

I'm getting awfully sleepy, so I'm afraid you'll have to excuse me. I haven't heard from you for over a week so I'm looking for one soon. Hope you have just as nice a Thanksgiving as I am having.

Lots of love -

Shirley