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Pecos Army Air Field Pecos, Texas

Wednesday evening December 15, 1943

Dear Dad,

Cold clear weather has come to Pecos and the flying hours are beginning to pile up. It is interesting to note that weather had grounded planes at Pecos only one day in fifteen months until 44-C came along; 44-C has lost ten days of flying in six weeks. However solo, cross country, night flying, good weather and the fact that class 44-C is the only class and using all the planes at Pecos are reasons for the excellent [sic] progress.

Tuesday I took my 250 mile three hour cross country from Pecos to Salt Flat, (land), to Intermittent Lake to Van Horn, (land), to Pecos. There isn't much

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to tell for I just flew the course I had marked out in Navigation class on the El Paso sectional chart. Mountain peaks, highways, railroads and salt lakes provided check points along the route. I cruised at 8,000 feet at about 130 miles per hour. I passed two speeding Hellcats at Salt Flat and a big C-46 over Van Horn.

Night flying consists of one hour dual time, five hours of solo local time and two hours of solo cross country. For my money nothing can top the beauty of night flying with a full moon and a sky full of stars. It takes awhile [sic] to adjust to the different perspective on landing but it comes, with a few bumps. There are three periods at night — 7:30 till 9:30, 9:30 till 11:30, and 11:30 till 1:30. I fly last tonight.

I passed my basic instrument check and so have finished instrument training for Basic. I am now ready

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to take up airobatics [sic] and formation. Then after filling out my time in solo flying I will enter my Advanced training. I hope to see you all in March. I now have 45 hours of flying and will probably be finished or be so high in time that I will have two or three days off to spend in El Paso at Christmas time before beginning Advanced.

Yesterday everyone on the base took four huge Sulpha-Diazine pills. (I swallowed them.) The pills are supposed to ward off the flu which has stricken quite a few. I feel fine so don't worry.

I will be sending a package of letters, clippings,

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etc., very soon. Tell Mother that I promise not to open the Christmas package till the 25'th.

Leland Inscho wrote to say that he is taking Advanced Engineering at Princeton. Billy Jim is still studying at Conneticut [sic]. I haven't heard from Howell Finn in some time.

Say hello to everyone for me.

Yours,

Lee