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Ferris School for Boys

Box 230

Wilmington 99, Delaware

December 31, 1943

Dear Lee:-

Your pictures arrived this morning and they are fine. I think I like them even better than the ones sent from Santa Ana, for they look so natural. You do look so well and happy. It was the nicest thing [that] could have happened to us on the last day of the year, with the exception of having you in person with us.

I do hope everything we sent reached you in good condition. It surely made me feel badly that our box did not arrived for Christmas for it was sent two weeks before. But the damage can't be remedied now. Was the watch the kind you wanted, and did the gift from your sisters arrive for it was sent a week later than my box?

I think I will give the Boykins one of your pictures, for they have your welfare very much at heart and I believe would appreciate one. Bernice has written you this week but so far I guess Shirley has not. She'll try to before she leaves on Monday. This morning Bernice had a voice lesson at 11:30 and Shirley an appointment with the dentist at 12:30, after which they went to grandmother Minker's for lunch. I expect them back on the 4:30 trip. Tonight I guess Ben and Walter will be around. Ben hurt his foot playing basketball at the Y.M.C.A. Tuesday night and has not been able to walk since. He and Shirley were to go to Philadelphia to hear Benny Goodman I believe, but it had to be called off. Both the boys will have New Year's dinner with us. Some delicious Crisfield oysters arrived from Mr. Wyatt Wednesday. We saved some to use in the stuffing for the turkey tomorrow.

You remember Gus Minker, don't you? He used to be the electrician out here you know. He dropped dead yesterday morning. Daddy got in touch with his two sons who live in Philadelphia and has spent most of the afternoon with them making funeral arrangements. The oldest son was one of the first bunch on the Solomon Islands, - was wounded severely in the head and had some of his toes blown off. After being in the Walter Reed Hospital for some weeks he was given a discharge last February.

I have been busy in the office today, trying to get everything in shape so I will not have to come over at all tomorrow. Most of the boys will be here for the majority went home for Christmas. We are having two movies, - one in the afternoon and one in the evening: "Something to Shout About" and "Here we Go Again".

I do hope you are able to get away this weekend and that you make some good contacts through the rector in El Paso. How far away is that from Pecos?

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I do hope and pray that next New Year's eve we can all have a celebration together,- not only us but the whole world; that this war will be over and we can think of other things. Our very best to you, dear, and all my love.

Mother