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United States Army

Monday evening

January 10, 1944

(forgot a new year) [written most likely in 1999]

Dear Bernice,

Perhaps you might like to read a description of Pecos, the town. If so, read on.

As soon as an open post period is declared (we never know about it until the last moment) everyone dashes to the barracks, jumps into a class A uniform, runs for the bus stop with his buddies and then stands in the aisle for the ten minute bus ride into town. At the gate valuable time is wasted as the standers file out so that the MP may check passes and then file back again.

We pile out of the bus in front of the 20 x 40 unpainted remainder of the wild west - Judge Roy Bean's Jersey Lily Saloon from which the Judge dispensed the "law west of the Pecos" and which is now the Chamber of Commerce

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headquarters. Across the street is a vacant lot spoiled only by a brilliant billboard advertizing [sic] the Pecos Rodeo of July 6-7, 1943. But as one looks farther he will find a typical small town (5,000 population plus Air Base plus army wives and other transients) business section - J.C. Penny [sic]; Hotels Grandon and Crocket [sic]; the Texas and Pacific R.R. station down the street; Best and All American Cafes; Walgreen and Pecos Drug stores; three or four clothing (both sexes), hardware and feed shops; Pecos National Bank topped by law and AAA offices; W.P.A. postoffice; municipal headquarters; Jack's Liquor Shop; the U.S.O. in an old Chevy showroom.

Shirley writes that she wants you to visit her over semesters. That would be a good idea. It is time you were beginning to think seriously of what you are going to do after high school. Will you have a chance to go to the Drexel open house this year? I think Shirley wishes that she had some music training this year especially since there would be no cheer leading to undue the good care and practice of voice training.

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Tomorrow I will meet my flying instructor for Advanced. Advanced Flying Training will be divided as follows

1/3 - transition, day cross country and formation

1/3 - instrument

1/3 - night (transition, cross country and formation)

It certainly is quite an honor for Mother to be re-elected President of District Methodist Women again even though she asked to be relieved. I know she can do it though.

A terrible thought just hit me. I am afraid that I have neglected to thank you for your Christmas gift. It came about a week ago and I think its beautiful. Thanks a lot. The box of goodies from you all soon dissapeared [sic]. The special duPont Echo that you have men-

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tioned in a previous letter has not come yet though.

In answer to Mother:

"N" after a boy's name means no middle initial.

A flight officer is just below a Second Lieutenant and just above a non-commissioned [sic] officer. He rates a salute but wears a warrant officer cap insignia. His pay is the same as that of a Second Lieutenant but he has fewer duties, less responsibility. Nobody seems to fully understand or favor the flight officer act which states that the Air Forces Director of Training may appoint a certain number of flight officers in each class of those who enlisted after July 16, 1942. Depending on the number of flight officers needed in one class a cadet with a 61 percent overall average may be a Second Lieutenant in Class 43-B while a cadet with a 69 per cent average in Class 43-C may become a flight officer.

Yours,

Lee

P.S. watch for my Basic class book soon.