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Ferris School for Boys

BOX 230

Wilmington 99, Delaware

Saturday evening,

January twenty-second (1944)

Dear Lee:-

Your week has probably been one of your fullest yet from the forecast you sent -- written last Sunday. I hope everything went well, and that you can now bear down on mastering a new ship. It sounds as if it would be just ideal to fly home in -- but no such luck yet, I guess. Anyhow, you know where the duPont Airport is if you get up this way.

You have already received the story of last week's Bombers-Sphas game. It was a bit disappointing but I suppose it was natural to see some relaxing after driving through to win the first half. This second half is going to be tough. The other teams are stronger. I hope to see a win over Trenton to-morrow. I'll send the News' account Monday.

(over)

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Before the game I spoke at the dedication of a Service Plaque in Union Park Gardens. It was one of the best run affairs of that kind that I have attended, and, of course, I knew so many present. Any number sent a "hello" to you -- the Ponds, Earle Staats, Mr. Warren, etc.

The week hasn't been particularly eventful for me. I've gotten caught up with a lot of desk work -- which means I can see what the surface of the desk looks like.

Monday evening I entertained my Civilian Defence keymen -- 50 of them -- at dinner. We had a grand time. The Governor attended, and everything went fine. It's quite a job to keep up interest -- and such evenings help. For two hours and a half on Monday afternoon I sat with three majors and seven colonels of the 2nd Service Command discussing a new pre-induction training program to assist the new classes being called through Selective Service. Mr. Koester and I were the other two in the room. It was quite a session. The large number of married men being called is going to call for renewed local

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effort in conjunction [sic] with the army, navy and the marine corps in the interest of intelligent morale. We have to line up meetings and carry on quite a program of instruction. I'll tell you more about it later. After the dinner at the school I went to the Library auditorium where we laid out a county-wide educational program in the interest of safeguarding military information. At 9:15 p.m. that evening I addressed the Five Points Women's Club on our school.

Tuesday evening I spoke in Smyrna before a large gathering of men on "the Church's Great Opportunity." It was a dinner meeting. Wednesday I went to the special dinner meeting of the Wilmington Housing Commission which has charge of the temporary and permanent housing constructed here for defense plant workers. You'll be interested in seeing these developments when you come home. They have to be watched (the whole program)

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in order to keep out of competition with local and individual ownership.

Thursday evening we saw Madame Curie -- mother, Dr. Edgar, Dr. Elizabeth and I, and last night mother and I saw "Decision" at the Playhouse -- a new play, the lead of which is taken by Thomas Ross -- Mrs. Dexter's brother, 71 years old, and an excellent actor. Mother and I visited with him and his wife afterward. I hadn't been up in the dressing rooms since I was made up for the character of Jacques in "As you Like It" back in 1915. So time goes. I had buried both the father and mother of Mr. Ross -- which gave our meeting quite a coverage (three generations) as you see.

Well, I've give you the story to date. You can fill it in from the clippings.

I am still of the opinion that you should have your full ten days here and that provision should be made for travel time.

Anyhow-- the best to you. All of us join in this. What do you say to phoning next Sunday evening, the 30th. I'll say nothing

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about it but will keep everyone at home.

As always,

Dad~