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Friday night

April 13, 1945

Dearest Lee: --

How are you this lovely evening? I have just come in from playing tennis until it was so dark we couldn't see a thing. It has been threatening a thunder storm all afternoon but as yet we have not had any rain at all. It would be quite a relief to have some rain 'cause it might cool things off. We've been having most unusually warm weather this April and it has been continually hot. We have had very little rain though, which does not look very promising for this time of year. Speaking strictly from the old farmer's viewpoint, you understand. I imagine that England is very lovely now and that those famous English countrysides are blossoming out in their full regalia. Almost all of the spring flowers are out over here, and I wouldn't be too surprised if more came along very soon. I don't know whether or not mother has done anything to the garden at home, do you? She really doesn't have the time for it but I imagine she'll get someone to help her a little.

Since the warm weather has come, we have been playing tennis every spare minute. Dad got Bernice a beautiful Spaulding racquet for graduation and she's going to learn how to play over at school. Do you remember the house across from the airport on Lancaster Avenue? Dad knows the people over there and they have tennis courts right behind their home. So, I think we'll be able to play some this summer. I hope so because I think it's a wonderful game. I had never played at all before I came up here last year, and I don't mean to brag, but I have improved quite a lot. Of course, when I see someone really good playing, I know

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how much room I still have for improvement. We played four hours last Saturday afternoon and I hope we can play that much tomorrow.

I know that by now you have heard of the death of President Roosevelt. I was very shocked to hear the news last night, and I know everyone else was too. I hope that it does not lower the spirit of the boys all over the world too much. I think we have lost a wonderful leader, and it does seem too bad that he could not have lived a few months longer to see our victory in Europe. It leaves us all with a rather lost feeling, but I am sure that Truman will do his best and he has some very able people to help him. He really didn't sound well the last time I heard him speak, which was just after he came back from the conference at Yalta.

Fred is deep in Germany now with General Patton's Third Army. I do get letters from him very regularly considering everything. He's been very lucky so far, and I hope he is able to keep on that way. He isn't able to tell me very much, so that his letters don't give much news. He has sent me several German bills which are very interesting. If you ever do run into him, be sure and give him my love.

We've started work on our spring play already. It's going to be the Pulitzer prize winning play "Craig's Wife." The cast is wonderful (even though I'm not lending my talents to it) and I think it's going to be a wonderful play. Tomorrow morning I have to get up with a bunch of other kids to set up the flats for the stage. Then we have to go over all the old paint with sizing, and paint an entirely new set for the stage. I'm student director if you imagine such a thing! As soon as they start doing it without books, I have to prompt them in their lines and actions. I think that will start next week!

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Next week the Conference is being held at Williamsport. About 100 ministers are staying here at Dickinson from Thursday until Sunday. All the girls, just about, are going to wait on tables for breakfast and dinner, all four days. It should be quite funny for most of us have not served before and know very little about it. I wish mother and dad would come up, but I doubt if they will. I don't know where the Conference is in Delaware this year. It's probably sometime very soon.

We're also getting ready for May Day now. It is going to be held on May 12 and the play is the eleventh. I want mother and Bernice to come up for that week-end, but I'll just have to wait and see. May Day is always quite lovely, as we have a nice place to have it. Did I tell you that I was elected Maid of Honor of the May Court? Yes, don't say it! They just don't have much to choose from up here!

Dr. Edgar called me up when I was home for Easter and said he would like to have me work for him. I was very pleased of course, but nothing definite was decided. I have gotten the crazy idea in my head that I would like to work in an Army hospital somewhere. There are quite a few which are not very far from home, and I've heard they need medical secretaries very badly. What do you think about it? I don't have to join the Army and be a Wac or anything like that?

Well, Lee, I'm going to stop so I can mail this tonight when I go downtown with the kiddies. Good-luck and good flying.

Lots of love,

Shirley