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April 4, 1945

Dearest Lee:

Have you by any chance run across Lieut. Layton from Wilmington? Mr. Briggs tells me that he heard through Charles McKeever's folks that Jimmie Cooper has been badly injured in the hip and is also suffering from some tropical fever. He and Charles are in the Pacific area.

Did you every know bleeding heart to be out so soon? I am sending you one of the first to bloom.

Last night I worked for a couple of hours in the attic, for when it was insulated in the winter everything was disarranged and I am now trying to bring some kind of order out of the chaos. I got as far as stacking magazines. Among them I found the copies of Nature Magazine which Aunt Lillian gave you one year, remember?

We have a new station wagon at the school - really quite "spiffy" looking. It is a lighter weight and smaller than we have ever had before. They are very hard to get and we are the first agency or institution in the state to be allowed one. I hope it will be given good care. Shirley wants to learn to drive when she gets home for the summer and I hope daddy allows it. She certainly is capable of doing as well as some of the boys who are allowed to drive for the school.

Bernice is in the midst of taking exams all week, getting ready for college boards.

We heard from Aunt Ann this week. She is having a hard time, working and trying to manage Sunny and Mary Ann. In trying to be kind and provide for them as Uncle Lou would have had he lived, she has not been able to bear down on them and have them cooperate and help in the home and it seems as if they have gotten out of hand. Sunny will be 17 in the fall and I think she would be doing well to allow him to join the Navy. So far she has not given her consent for him to enter any branch of the service. I guess we wrote you some time ago and told you that Margaret had married a lieut. who has been in an army hospital for a year or more. A few weeks ago she had a baby boy. There is nothing that hurts a parent more than ingratitude. Aunt Ann has worked hard to try to keep the family together, but one cannot blame her now for being discouraged. She wanted to be remembered to you.

It is rather quiet in the office this afternoon. We are having no academic classes this week and everybody is being worked out of doors, on the farm and campus. Howell was here all last week and will be here this week, as he is having a spring vacation.

I wish you were here this week to help us eat up some nice baked ham. I had one for Saturday night and it was delicious, but they sent such a big one I fear

daddy and I will be eating it for some days to come. I am glad to hear that you do get fresh eggs once in a while.

I sent you the Dickinson Alumnus yesterday for I am not sure whether they send you one from school or not.

Are you still flying, or are you doing something else? We cannot tell from your letters. Love from all of us.

Mother