This diary and letters were found in a box in December 2019 and given to Raymond Kresha, Jr. This is an abridged transcription of the letters. The Diary starts in 1944, when Del was 22 and Glenn 21, then there are back and forth letters, ending when they were married in May of 1949.

**The Diary**

**Property of:**

**Miss Delphine Jaworowski**

**St. Mary’s Church, Osceola, Nebraska**

**Rt. #2**

**A day by day**

**Record of Life**

**As Lived by me.**

**Del**

**Summary of 1943**

**Wednesday, December 29, 1943**

Dear Diary,

This is an old discarded notebook of Fr. Ed’s but I feel it will serve the purpose. Purpose being: 1) interesting war news items, 2) happenings of the day.

Everyone is talking about a Victory on the European battle front by the end of ’44 which only goes to show they probably won’t be finished for a long while with the Japs unless Russia will help with Japs after we get rid of Germany.

Yesterday I got my formal for Lillian Kresha’s wedding. Regina and Louise Iwan were with me in York to get it. Only blue one in town and it happened to be size 12 and I was just lucky. It fits beautifully! No alterations needed at all and for that I am thankful.

Today was not any out of the ordinary day. I cleaned out the joint from rags from rugs for Mrs. Kaczor and Regina and mail call wasn’t bad either. I got a letter from Hugh and Nick and cards from Dorothea, Betty and Chester Szymski (sp). Dorothea also send the N. N. and that was pretty grand too. Oh, and yesterday I got the Sunday Visitor so it looks like maybe Tony subscribed for it for me.

You know, diary, I have that feminine feeling in my bones that ’44 will be one year I’d like to remember especially well. It seems so many little things are forgotten when one does not keep a diary. I remember High School so much better when I kept you, so this is a resolution I hope I don’t break.

If I don’t limit myself, I’ll go on for pages and get caught up on ’43.

Only wonderful thing about ’43 is that Richard Edward Kreski (Butchie) and Mary Leone Kennedy were born this year. I spent almost 3 months in Chicago taking care of Ritchie and Baby Dee since Rich is in North Africa. After Butchie was old enough, Esse and I went over to Lee’s place for a week and I got acquainted with Andy and Mary. Gee, I have some darling nephews and nieces. Mary is my godchild and so is Delphine Jean.

A few wonderful events that I attended while in Chicago were:

1) Holy Hour in Soldier’s Field. It was a magnificent sight. The living rosary formed out on the field and outlined bead by bead with candles. As a Hail Mary was said 10 candles lit up and the darkened field, it was magnificent. Also very impressive was the sight of the thousands of people as they lit their own candles and it looked like a sea of candles. Oh, and as the clergy ascended the 45 steps to the altar – wow it was all very special.

2) I met Elsie and Bob from the A & P, and through them, Harry! We four went out on a few dates. One memorable one was the company dance at the McDinal Club (sp). I had a heavenly time dancing to wonderful music in a beautiful ballroom. (quick, I know the adjectives are getting superfluous (sp), but that’s how it was!). We danced some in the balcony that had some tables, etc. there is plenty of room. Course, we did dance downstairs, too. Oh, Bobby swiped an ash tray for me – Harry just wouldn’t. We got out there on the street car, but Bob & Elsie’s boss and two other couples drove us home cause it was raining so hard. We ate at Ricketts.

This also is the night I left my key at Elsie’s and locked myself out. Harry and Bob both brought me home, as they lived near the project. Anyway, after trying in the rain and waking Esse up, Bob finally crawled into the kitchen window which luckily was open and let me in.

Other things I did on my trip are just little things. But if I get started about Butchie and the rest, I’ll fill this book. Must say that it was something very thrilling to see the children grow under your very eyes as it were. Baby Del wasn’t saying too many words when I got there ‘scept “a-a” “mill. “stro” “boom” and a few other little words, but later came her insistent “moe” for more, “sis-sis” and gosh she just began having a name for everything. Andy was a guy of few words, but he understood a lot and pointed his cute fingers and went “uh, uh.” He knew where the parsnips and tomatoes were and knew them apart. Ed and Andy did a cut act with pipes where Andy really looked like he was smoking. Andy and his beautiful curls looked like a girl when we put on Delphine’s bonnet. When we put Andy’s hat on Del, she looked like a little boy. Mary was cute too – she’s awfully fair skinned. Maybe I ought to quit now. At least about my little darlings. I must add that Esse and I really got [re]acquainted and it’s another thing now when I think of Chicago, I get homesick!

Oh, the rectory is new. It got started in the early part of the year (really started, I mean. Course before that – oh well!) There is a lot of finishing to do but at present, its livable and that counts. While the old rectory was being torn down, I used to walk over to Mrs. Rose Iwan’s each evening to sleep and walk back in the morning. This was from about March till July or August. In those months are many, many pleasant memories. “Mother” was always so especially nice to me that its unforgettable. I slept with the girls but I had my bed. Then in June, Lou went to work and I and Joannie shared a bed. Everyone was swell and we had a lot of pleasant evening talks and card games together.

In reviewing 1943, I went backwards. My soldier news sorta goes like this – I met Mike in April on some afternoon. Fr. Jerry brought him over. Some pleasant memories. Then this October, lot of the boys were home, some to stay. Ray Kontor returned from camp because of his eyes. He can see better with them now. Then Emil Koziol is back to stay from New Guinea. He was wounded in his chest and had malaria 3 times. Ed Zelazny is back from the European War as a gunner. He now is permanently in the States as an instructor. He too has seen much of the fight and much of the world – the old world that is. One of the worst things, he said, was to see the German plane come toward you and you knew one of you had to be abolished.

Oh, Coast Guard Fritz Topsil was here this summer and brought his girls over. He was married a little later, and speaking of soldiers and the like, I mustn’t forget to mention the RAF that found me a seat on the train on our way to Chicago. He was cute – especially his accent. He was a pilot in the RAF. I would have written and given him my address had it not been for the fact that he was stopping in Chicago and I didn’t care to have him come over, as he was a total stranger, etc. That’s the end of that, but it was pleasant having him and the others I met on the train, up and back.

Now I think I got all my silly little happenings in so I’ll close for tonight ‘fore this will look like Esse’s letter to Rich or something the length of it.

Bye now.

**Thursday, December 30, 1943**

Dear Diary,

Well, look see! Nice to be started in you. Something very eventful happened (as Danny would write at this point – ha ha!) Emil, Joe and Alois were over and Al asked me if I would care to go to a show in Columbus. His niece, Dorothy Stanczyk, is out from Colorado so - . We also picked up Eileen Kuta. I never did giggle so on a date as far as I can remember. Nothing to giggle about ‘scept lookin’ at Eileen or my raw hamburger or me getting milk etc. Saw “Lady of Burlesque” with Barbara Stanwyck. It was a good murder except that the gals were too scantily clad. Other feature was “The Devil With Hitler,” which was durned good comedy!

I washed clothes today and was plenty tired - ! Then Fr. and I picked up the chickens and ducks to sell and then came the date! History was made (?) cause gosh, I never knew they had the nerve. They had it though and so did I. I had more fun with Eileen than anything else.

Sleepy? Of course I am and so will close. Oh yes, no mail today for me.

Bye now.

**Friday, December 31, 1943**

Dear Diary,

The last day of the year – I’m waiting up for the new year! There was church this evening and we had Polish vespers. Mother [Iwan] came up to help us sing. Oh, and Mary Anne is our new member as of today. Sweet thing!

Cleaned up the house and also got Lillian’s gifts wrapped. Did some fancy wrapping if I must say so myself. Put in a lot of time but when it comes to wrapping gifts, I always do. I love to kill time that way.

Got two letters today. One from Joseph Nuleahy – the grand-poet, NM & OFM. Then Loretta Girzik wrote and also sent seven Mass Intentions. Her Dad died of a heart attack on the 20th. It’s too bad. Death is a sorrow hard to bear – and it’s hard to convince myself otherwise. Eddie came after a while and I went along after the mail. I’ve got my rosary to pray yet so will close for now.

Bye for now

**- - - - - New Year - - - -**

1944

**Saturday, January 1, 1944**

Dear Diary,

Happy New Year! Auld Lang Syne, etc. – the radio is really going to town. People sound like they are going wild with the mere joy of 1944 being here. But it seems it’s the same every year and oh, Lawrence Welk is back at the Trianon! Pretty much of a favorite with me – man does he play! While they announce the time and the sound of the crown comes though, it sounds like a RIOT! One of the first new songs to be played this year was “My Heart Tells Me,” a top tune right now. My favorite is still “Paper Doll” though it’s getting old now.

For now, I’ll be closing until later in the day and after a nights rest! Happy 1944 indeed. My prayer is “Oh Lord, please, in your mercy, make this the year of final Victory. This, dear God, answer if it is your will!”

**Still January 1st, 1944**

Hello some more! Its only morning and just after mass but I simply must write. I’m so thrilled. Staff Sargent Ed Zelasny is home on leave and he brought me a beautiful mother of pearl heart pin with the air corps insignia on it. The mother of pearl is sorta khaki color, its simply super-special.

Went visiting this afternoon down to Iwan’s. Looked at some pictures and played pinochle later. Lou is “breaking in” my brown shoes. Had a nice time!

This evening Lillian and Leo dropped in to tell me ‘Kosch’s blue’ not will be okay for my hair. I need some pink flowers now! Must go in Monday to get my hair set anyway, so --.

Wrote letters to Esse, Sister Antonella (about poem), Fr. Pokorney (paid my subscription), and Fr. Joe (about my hope chest, Clast Jaw, and Lorretta Guzick.

That’s all for now – had a nice New Years – with hopes it keeps up this way!

Bye now

**Sunday, January 2, 1944**

Dear Diary

Went to shower for Lillian today at Urban’s. She got many nice gifts and we also had a lovely time. Out of pictures torn and from magazines we made a book of her life – and that was fun! I was in the 3rd group, which took in from graduation to wedding and future. We did have fun. Leo and Lillian drove me home then.

This evening Fr. and I went to Koziols and now it is 3:30 a.m. and we just got back. Had a lot of fun playing pinochle – I played too. I was Emil’s partner and we won most of the games! Ahem!

Well, that’s all –

Bye now

**Monday, January 3, 1944**

Dear Diary,

I’m kinda catching up here. I’m a few days back because of my being bridesmaid for Lillian’s wedding. I spent the whole day in town. I had my hair set and then went over to Dolores’ house and waited for Lillian. We were waiting until almost seven and then finally got started. Met Virg Kycki and she had a pink tiara that I borrowed for my hair. Dolores and I got quite well acquainted – but definitely.

At practice, we met our best men and oh, I was disappointed in the “pansy” that stood up with me. I feared touching him – sorta like he’d fall apart. We spent the night at Sophia’s – all the bridesmaids and the bride. 2 AM o’clock before we got to bed. Rose Amore was sweet and sewed my net for me. I had a bath to take and nails to polish and slip to sew. Lillian composed her paper writings. She had a lot of re-writing to do, but decided to go to bed. So, Rosie and I finished it with a “put in this” every now and then. Got a letter from Mike and June, more later.

**Tuesday, Jan 4**

After 4 hours of restless sleep, we were up and getting ready – all excited. Just made 2 errors which weren’t noticeable – and that was the 1st camper’s fault. I was last. I suppose since there is a manpower shortage, I didn’t do so badly. He was terribly shy, it was pitiful. I tried to break the ice but it almost broke me & best I could do was about one sentence from him and that was murder.

We had a pleasant time – nothing exciting but not boring. I had a picture snapped with Charlie. Gee, he’s cute – but so is Willie, except they’re much too young! And they’re either too young or too old! Al was too old! In the evening at the dance, (oh yes, I mustn’t forget how we searched all day for Virginia Dare – will you repeat that please? – say it again?)

I had first two dances with Al, then one with Leo, (swell dancer) Charlie and Bud. Before my dance with Bud, Ray Staroski, Clarence S came up to the bridal group and claimed their dances for when please? And then, so did Glenn and Martin Kresha. Boy, did I feel good, getting all booked up in such a hurry. Ray had a furlough again. He’s sure lucky. Anyway, this left me one dance before intermission with Al (poor wall-flower). Oh, intermission. How I dreaded that. Oh, Pilzno boys were there and I stopped and said Hi to Eddie. Going back to intermission, we found Virginia – I was handed the unopened bottle! Al drove me home from the dance and Bud and Dolores were in back. Just plain shux! What a better time I could have had.

Bye

**Wednesday, Jan 5**

Dear Diary,

Sleep I did and I also cleaned up the house. Then guess! Ed Zelasny came over for the evening. He stayed until quite late. Both Fr. and I enjoyed hearing about his experiences a whole lot. I had a chance to sorta clean up before he saw me and so I put on my brooch from him. While we had lunch, I know he was looking at it and then once I caught him at this and we both grinned and I told him I didn’t remember if I thanked him since I was so excited New Years. He said the girl behind the counter thought it was the prettiest pin and he hoped I thought so too.

So, there was another evening up late. Won’t ever get any sleep.

Bye now

**Thursday, January 6, 1944**

Dear Diary,

Today I started in on my last week’s ironing. Oh, but I’m slipping! Today Esse wrote a nice long letter and a card came from Ernie. It was sent out the 17th so it must have been delayed someplace. Oh, which reminds me of the letter and Xmas card from Mike. The card had enclosed a spiritual Bouquet – 25 masses, 25 communions, 8 Novena prayers, and 50 rosaries! Today, I wasn’t satisfied till I wrote to him, so that I did – this evening. I hope I never have to write a letter of that type again. But after this “blue” Christmas eve, I had decided to let him know what’s what. I doubt if he’ll answer but I wonder – I wish he would as I would like to know how that letter affected him. Sent Cecil Estok a birthday card and Esse a letter.

Not in much of a mood tonight so, toodle-de-doo.

Bye now

**Friday, January 7**

Dear Diary,

I’m so sleepy that I think I’ll just record this day. I finished off my ironing and also laundered my white dress which turned out beautifully. Nothing exciting and no mail for today. Which makes this a dull day.

Bye now,

Del

**Saturday, January 8**

Dear Diary,

I walked over to Johnnie Kresha’s for a push for Father’s car, so before John came and stuff, the morning was gone and my house to be cleaned. Got some mail today. A letter from Buttons and Fuipe (sp). Fr. Joe will look around for a hope chest, as he got my money order. I sure hope he gets one. We will go to Lincoln next Sunday.

Nothing else to write for today.

Bye now

**Sunday, January 9th**

Dear Diary,

It’s Monday evening, and so I’m late again, but will explain myself for sure. Today we had dinner at Iwan’s – mother had a nice dinner. I visited until three and Fr. went home earlier. I got a lift as they had to take Lou to the train. This evening Fr. and I went to the show at the Swan. Saw a western and the other was “The Major and the Minor” with Roy William (oh:) and Ginger Rogers. It was really an awfully good show. Ginger was Sue [pretending to be] a 12-year-old; and boy, was that killing! It was good. When we got back, Fr. Jerry was there waiting for us. Nice, huh?

So, I went to bed at 3:30 – so we all gay-gabbed as per usual – so the topics were everything and my collected poems too and Mike and my nasty letter and oh gee, I wonder if I should sent it. It’s too late now and anyhow if that’s how I felt, why should I hide my feelings? I’ll just keep on here. This morning Fr. Jerry and I had a rather personal talk about Mike and I’ll have to say – some talk. He said, “well should I bring him out on his furlough?’ and I said – ‘I don’t know, it all depends if and what he writes back.’ I have this whole week to wait to see what happens. We picked out a nice gift for Tillie as Fr. Jerry was picking her up after a long vacation she had at her folks. This is on his way and he always stops here.

The OFV Our Family Visitor] came today. It was a little late. Rich and Esse had a cute write up in it! Started on the annual typing of reports and I’ve a week’s job there! So, must close now and get some shut eye as I’m sleeping again. Seems like I always am!

Bye now

**Tuesday, January 11th**

Dear Diary,

Today I started in on the typing. Ugh! Boy, that kinda gets me. Lots of work ahead. Ray was here this evening and cut a stencil. Will be around again when he has time. Cute kid! Got this list made out of the workers. Ready to be cut for stencil.

Mail call today – was a letter from Rich – Vmail. He’s in Italy now. Golly, I’ll have to write to him pretty soon. Also got a card from Sr. Antonella and the Sunday Visitor. Heap readin’ to do. Gonna close as I feel kinda dull and sleepy.

Bye now

**Wednesday, January 11th**

Dear Diary,

I was on the lousy side of life today – not feeling good so I won’t write much – slept this afternoon and cut a stencil this evening and now my back is tired form sitting on the stool. No mail today. It’s a lousy day for mail what with just one letter this week. Russia is fighting the Germans on what was formerly Polish grounds. Boy, everything is so complicated. Yesterday the president spoke and he (sorta!) wants to draft workers for the factory. Guess this is being disputed plenty though.

Won’t even put my 2 cents worth in tonight.

Bye now

**Thursday, January 12th**

Dear Diary,

This week is certainly dragging. I keep hoping that its Friday or Saturday but it’s like in vain, huh? Since there isn’t any mail, the week drags on all the longer.

It’s after two, the boys just left. They were mimeographing and Ray and I cut two stencils – no, it was three, only one of them wasn’t any good!! More work tomorrow. Frankie and Elvin were also here. They’re having ‘adding’ troubles again. Oh, woe, huh?

Were in town today and did some shopping for groceries. Heap lot – and good fruit.

So, we’re eating again.

Well, bye for now! Sleep is so inviting. When will I get to bed earlier? When, oh, when!

Bye now (again!)

**Friday, January 13th**

Dear Diary,

Some people provoke me to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! After washing and waxing the kitchen floor, I have someone stomp out their cigarette on it as if it were a pool room – well. I didn’t think Frank L was so cute and I hope the look I gave him was murderous enough. Had two letters today – one from Tony and one from Chester J. Tony will be ordained June 3rd. Gee, how I’d love to go but the chances are so few that it’s no use even hoping! Such is life, huh? Kids are here today again. I’ll be glad when they’re through.

Bye now

**Saturday, January 22**

Dear Diary,

I’m a week behind time here, so I’ll see if I can’t bring things up to date as they should be. I’ll start with last Saturday. Last week I waxed and washed all the floors or should I say finished the ones on the first floor. In the mail I got a card from Esse saying she is sending out the egg crate.

Then Sunday the 13th we were supposed to go to a 4-H Club meeting and instead I spent the afternoon waiting, while Fr. had car trouble from St. Joes. Henrietta and Edwin Cyza were down for half an hour, about 3:30. We were invited to Edmund Kontor’s for dinner (supper, I should write). We spent the evening. Had a nice social time. All the other Kontors were there too and so were Dorothy’s folks.

Monday the 16th was a day! Got lots of mail. (on Mon. I wrote Steve a little and Esse a card and his dad stopped to see Fr. & they mailed it out for me.) Now for Monday’s mail. Had an airmail and a Vmail from Rich. The airmail was really sweet and he thanked me for my Xmas gift which he received Xmas day. I was so thrilled about that, I would have paid $15.00 for his gift or supplies if I knew that he could get it like a gift from Santa. Had a letter from Bernice Schmit, who will be coming home from the orthopedic hospital Wed (She’s home by now, the 22nd).

Which brings me up to Mike’s letter that came today. It was such a pitiful lil letter that I felt a bit ashamed of myself. (He was at fault and he would pay the price for losing my friendship – but please wouldn’t I write and tell him I wasn’t angry, please?). So, I wrote, but this is going a day ahead of schedule.

Monday still – Fr. Kozlik came down, and we haven’t seen him for ages, so we went to show in Columbus. Saw “Gang’s All Here” with Carmen Miranda and Alice Faye. Stayed up rather late talking. Fr. K stayed overnight till Tuesday. Oh heck, I also baked a lot on Monday – one yeast and made 2 cookie doughs.

Tuesday, I had a stack of dishes to do from Monday night. Then I also had to sorta get ready for Ladies Meeting, which was Wednesday. No mail Tuesday. In the evening, I began writing letters – 2 Vmails to Rich, a small letter to Esse, one to Lee, and one to Mike, which was really small considering it was late and I wrote the others first. Frs. Potacki and Pleva dropped by for about an hour, so they didn’t altogether stop me from writing. Must close now and finish this tomorrow.

**Sunday Jan. 23, 1944**

I’ll just keep going here. Wed., I got quite bit of mail from girlfriends. Loretta N wrote and Lily Anne wrote too. Dorothea sent me 3 N. N. Lou is busy with her Nurses Aid and overtime and Lily Anne is happy in love. She didn’t mention anything about pictures? Maybe this will continue to be something different!

In the afternoon, the ladies had their project club. “Pepping up War-time meals.” We had a nice lunch from it all! I baked my cookies early in the evening. Also got the Women’s Home Companion, which I read until 11 o’clock.

So here it is Thursday. I typed out assessments and cut St. Mary’s stencil. All afternoon job, that.

Just a card from Betty Sundett.

Went to show this evening, - Fr took Lisko boys, Ray and we added Jeannie. “Happy Land” with Don Ameche – Ann Rutherford and “Prairie Chickens” – just a good comedy! Both were swell. Liked the first one an awful lot! I read the story in the [Saturday Evening] Post.

Friday, take a bow! OK! The mail brought me a letter from Lou and also the OFV. [Our Family Visitor – a little magazine put out by a priest in the area, Fr. Jerry] Both were revealing and Lou’s letter was sweet. Did more typing on St. Joe’s stuff and also went into Duncan and saw my dress maker. I’ll wait another week and maybe there’ll be some results.

In the evening, Fr. and Frank went to Osceola to a show and I stayed home. Had some meat that had to be fixed up and then worked on my poetry scrap book. Kinda living things up, ya know.

So this brings me up to last night or Saturday the 22nd. Had a letter from Fr. Jerry – short but nice. He also sent me some extra FV copies. This last copy had my letter from Dolores in it and also Rich’s letter was there. I had a cute poem about ‘Don’t be what you ain’t, just be what you am’ etc. -. Well, Saturday was Saturday, house cleaning day. Washed my hair and went to bed early. Will write later as to what today’s happening are, cause all that happened so far is I went to mass, had dinner and did the chores.

This afternoon was a lazy sort of one and I didn’t accomplish much of anything ‘scept a letter to Fr. Jerry, St. Joe, and Ishapec and oh, Dorothea and a start of one to Sr. Antonella. These overall short ones were written on note paper. This evening we played cards down at Koziols. Angelina had her baby there and we had a nice time. I enjoyed playing with the baby a lot. Emil had all his souvenirs down and they are all very nice. Now I’ve got to pray yet and high-tail it to bed. Its 12:30 and time I was snoozing!

Bye for now

**Monday – Jan. 24th**

Dear Diary,

Today I really had a mail call! But it was super! Esse wrote me a great big long letter. Then she also sent along a letter she wrote to Rich which was 5 typed pages long which was all about Delphine and Bea-lice “I chie.” Golly, she is doing the darndest things. She talks like a phonograph record – and she’s 22 months old. Butchie is beginning to sit up by himself – but no teeth yet. Curly blonde hair and, oh yes, how I miss both of them.

This evening we went to Kontors and had a nice visit. I washed clothes today so I’m pretty well worn out.

Bye

**Tuesday, Jan. 25th**

Dear Diary,

Well, one of these nice days that are chuck full of odd jobs! I should be mentioning our extraordinary weather. We haven’t had any winter yet – it was 70º today and its close up there all last week. No rain – no snow just mild weather that gives one spring fever. Maybe we just won’t have winter out here anymore. No mail call for me ‘scept the OSV – the Post came too. Read one story – pretty good. Wrote to Lou and Loretta G this evening. Guess I’ll end up on this line.

Bye now

**Wednesday Jan 26**

Dear Diary,

--“The weather she rain today.” I read a book today – “White Fire” by E. J. Edmunds SVD. I started about 5:30 and was finished by eleven. It was a wonderful book about a Sister and her work among the lepers. It’s called a novel – well, so it is, but it’s also more than that in the few passages where comfort is being handed out, one to another, and also some meditations of the nun. There are a few passages I want to remember – “Life is made up of ordinary things. It is doing them extraordinarily well for an extraordinary motive that gives them meaning. That brings contentment, joy.” “It isn’t all joy, this life – we pay for the hours of joy with periods of pain.” “Love is not love until it has learned to trust.” Lovely thoughts, aren’t they. The book held my interest throughout because it was a human book and even the best characters in the book had faults.

There, this sounds like a book review. Well, it’s not really, but the book was so refreshing – not even a sentence about war rationing and all these things that one reads about day in and day out.

The war news was pretty good today. Allies are meeting but little resistance along the Apian Way in their battles to get to Rome. Argentina broke relations with Germany and Axis Powers – finally and about time. Russia refused U.S.’s invitation for arbitration to resettle the Polish – Russia dispute. Now what? I wonder too.

I cut three stencils today but each one needs something added to it – so it’s not quite finished but the biggest chore and the work is! No mail today.

Then G’night and stuff. Oh, I cut off the split ends on my hair (1/2 inch).

Bye now

**Thursday, Jan. 27th**

Dear Diary,

Yesterday, I was full of the war news and today, well, today I must admit that I’m falling pretty hard for someone’s lines – guy named Mike. So there too! And I didn’t think I would admit that much. Mike’s was the only letter I got today but that was enough – but definitely! Well, he made a lot of things clear and cleared up a lot of things – so it was pretty grand and everything is swell again – even the weather. Wrote to Esse, Rich, and Mike – I was home alone this evening. Heard some of the radio programs and then now I am ready for bed.

Bye now

**Friday Jan. 28th**

Dear Diary,

This evening we went to the show – saw a western at the Muse in Osceola. Fritz came over to mimeograph and then, instead, we all went to the show “Purty Good.” Now I can say it’s Saturday and late as ‘L.’ Went to Duncan and Columbus this afternoon. Got my blouse, which is a dilly, and also bought some pretty velvet ribbons to go around. No mail today and please excuse, but I’m sleepy.

Bye now

**Saturday Jan. 29th**

Dear Diary,

Today – ah. Had a date!! Lawsy me, wait till I tell you it was with someone old enough to be practically my Father! But I had a nice time because he played in the orchestra, Alois, I mean and I danced all evening. There wasn’t much of a crowd and in fact a good part of the evening, I danced with girls – till some men (?) came in. Met Kyba girls and a few other gals. Also met Dorothy’s boyfriend, “Ray” – oh and could he dance (Polish)! Just an 18-yr-old though! Had fun after dance while Alois was waiting for [their] pay. Emil was playing a harmonica and whining and I danced – just to be silly. Ray and Dot hung around too. Some fun. Now dizzy as I am, I’ll sign off

Bye

**Sunday 1/29th/44**

Hi Diary,

I’m over a week off, so I’ll sorta catch up with just details. Saw “Ridin’ High” with Dot Lamour, Dick Powell and a new star who really was good!

**Monday, Jan. 30th ‘44**

Boy I’m sorta blank but this week I had a letter from Esse, Steve, Mike and Dorothea. OFV also. Saw a movie about Wednesday – “In Old Oklahoma” and “Swing in the Saddle” (something or others). Both were swell – we took Jeannie and Ray along.

This week I mended clothes galore and caught up on all my back mending and now I’m all mended up!

Saturday I went to the Silver Creek Bingo Party. Ray Starostka and Shorty were there. Shorty hinted for a date on Valentine’s Day but I sorta didn’t catch the hint and then Iwan’s were ready to leave and that just hung in the air. Sorta hope he doesn’t come though, I’d like to go to the dance in Silver Creek that night! Maybe there’s some other way – maybe!

Gosh, I can’t think of the letter I wrote this past week either. Sunday we played pinochle at Koziols till 2:30!! Monday, the 7th it is already, and after such a hectic late evening – didn’t do much. Answered Mike’s letter – wrote to Esse and also to Steve and sent out some Valentines. Oh, I wrote to Ernie last week too.

**Tuesday, Febr. 8th**

I washed clothes and went to be early and that brings me to miserable Wednesday, Febr. 9th. I feel lousy and so what? So, let me see what I did for today. Oh, this morning I got a “ha-ha!” letter from Denny with his picture. He has a very infectious smile and I laughed out loud at his picture – I can’t say why. I knew he’d be oldish – maybe it was the shot, anyway I’m still laughing about it. The twins were down this afternoon and I helped them with their sewing box.

Oh, what almost slayed me was the remark Dan made about my “bridesmaid” story which described the whole affair and saved the detail that I’d be the bridesmaid for the last time. I wrote “When I read that you walked up the aisle with a man, I thought, “Oh Lord, she’s married!” So that’s life for ya! And this is going to be all. I have yet to drop a card to Esse.

Bye Now!

**Thursday, Feb 10**

Dear Diary,

Boy are we snowed in today – but good! The mail man wasn’t even able to get through. I started to read “White Dove Flies South” A very wonderful book on the race question. The hero, a white man, by chemical turns black and must live the hardships of a colored person. I’ve about 70 pages to finish but is almost 2 AM, so off to bed!

Bye now

**Friday, Feb 11**

Dear Diary,

At least the mail got through. No letters but a lot of papers. Finished my book; baked one yeast recipe and this evening we played cards at Koziols. Boy they drove us home. The battery went dead and it’s so cold! The mercury dropped to 20º below! I’m sleepy so this will be… all this night life is killing me. Baked today.

Bye now

**Saturday, Feb. 12th**

Dear Diary,

Couldn’t make up my mind if we were going to have the card party or not. We will if it doesn’t snow by morning. Most likely it’ll snow, forecasted to.

Had a valentine from Mike. It was a lovely Valentine message. If I expected more, I’m not talking. My feelings are so muddled at times that its pitiful.

We went to Duncan this afternoon and I got my jumper. It’s pretty nice but it needs a set of snaps and one button needs to be moved.

Fr. gave me my Valentine today too! A box of candy and a rosary. The most beautiful rosary you can imagine. Its exquisite and so very dainty! I’m terribly thrilled about getting it! The beads are a shell pink shade of clear glass (or whatever they’re made of) and it has a very good sterling chain - $7.50. Fr. forgot to take off the price tag! Gee, I never owned such a good rosary. I’m tired and sleepy, so

Bye now

**Sunday, Feb. 13th**

Dear Diary,

Well, you guessed it. It snowed so there won’t be a card party. We had dinner at Rose Iwan’s. Lou was home but went back this afternoon. Ray, Jeannie, Eddie (stopped after him in case got stuck) and I took her early in the afternoon while it still snowed, so she could catch her train.

This evening I spent in writing letters. Hugh, Rich, Esse and I finished Audrey’s too. Now I’m sorta caught up – a little that is. Have a few more to write, I think. That’s all for now.

Bye!

**Monday, Feb. 14th**

Dear Diary,

Well it was Valentine’s Day and I got a couple of Valentines. From Mary Anne and Loretta Novack. Did some ironing today and this evening.

Fr. went to a wake in Columbus and pulled out all my postcards from States and I am lacking Delaware and I would also want a different one of Alabama since the one I now have is a whole folder and I just want a card. Had fun reading over some of the cards and reminiscing. Some fun. Wasn’t in the mood to write. My letters are still here and not up that 1/2 mile! Guess that’s that for today. Too many memories – and need some sleep.

Bye now

**Tuesday, Feb. 15th**

Dear Diary,

Today I got a card from Josephine in Philly and from Betty in Lincoln. Betty’s Valentine was clever – you opened it and there was a lovely picture of her (photo that memorable).

Tonight, I wrote to her and Loretta N. Then Rusty [family dog] was outside and I wanted to get him in and he’s so scared and when he got in I was in too big a hurry to let him in and now I’m in some pain. Got the index finger of my right hand caught in the door. Result, I’ll apply for 1944 nail soon. To forget the throbbing pain, I did some more writing. I wrote to Babe Dodendorf about the “pall” I want made for Tony. And now in pain, Bye now

**Wednesday, Feb. 16th**

Dear Diary,

This evening, we went to a movie. We saw “The Man from Down Under” with Charles Laughton, Binnie Barnes, Donna Reed and Richard Carlson. It was a swell movie – scene was set in Australia and “Blymy” – they had a real good accent! Also enjoyed a cute Popeye comedy. Earlier this evening I began reading “The Man Who Got Even with God.” It’s quite interesting – a biography of a saint, that is a non-canonized saint.

I also got a Valentine from Eilene and she wrote “Remember our triple date?” Do I! I still laugh when I think of it.

That’s all for now so,

G’dbye now

**Thursday Feb. 17th**

Dear Diary,

The soy bean in any form you wish was demonstrated to me today. Miss Kilmer or Kathryn was here and we had a splendid afternoon, ‘scept not enough ladies showed up. I guess the roads to farm houses aren’t so good.

In the mail Rose sent me negatives from Lillian’s wedding. Can’t tell what they’ll be like but I already sent them out cause I just can’t wait to see what they’ll look like. Also had a letter from Minnie Zelasney and has she a hone of a handwriting – man. I answered back these letters and also Kathryn left her can opener and I got that to be mailed too! Sorta dug around for a picture for Danny and but couldn’t find one, but I got side-tracked and its late now and so,

Bye now

Oh, Fr. Al dropped by for about 10 minutes and I finished my book. I was disappointed in the way the author ended that book but, the life of Brother Joachim was wonderful and it gives one hope; but it could have been written up better, I think.

**Friday Feb. 18th**

Dear Diary,

Heap tired and sleepy and its midnight in Pilzno. My Woman’s Home Companion came and was read.

I washed and waxed the floors today.

Had a letter from Tony. It’s always nice when it comes from him. I feel toward him as to a brother – as Hank ought to be and to write in his absence.

The O.F.V. also came today. Francessa had a beautiful poem – and there were a few other poems I enjoyed especially well. I love poetry so very much any way.

I also prepared the meat today so it won’t spoil and more so it would be easier to take care of this weekend when there isn’t too much time to be fixing food. Tis all there is to tell – only when – oh whenever will this war end and the tyrants that live be destroyed. I keep hearing of this “March of Death” and it seems hardly possible that it is time and yet it is true. How terribly, terribly sad it is. “God, our Father, show us the way, courageously – that because of these sufferings we might learn the way to a better life. – a life leading, in the end, to you.”

I can’t write—

Bye now

-----Break in Dates-----------

**Friday, March 3**

Dear Diary,

Well, that’s what I get for dating this too soon. Actually, it is March 3.

So much of February’s data to catch up on though! Can’t keep things in order so will relate them. Right now, on the radio is playing sweetly and softly “Will I ever find – the one who is my ideal?” Sometimes I wonder. Well, that’s enough for pretty music on Waltz Time. Friday night has always been Waltz Night since way back when – Wayne King – played in Chicago on every Friday night in our house. It’s fun to look back and so easy with just a tune of old or so. I know those days are the past.

Sometimes I wonder what sort of person I’d be if mother had lived to see me grow into and out of my teens. Well, it’s plain to see, that such was not meant for me. But who knows. Mother’s prayers are probably making up for what I’ve missed in her companionship. How I ramble – it seems as if I’ve never dared write things like this before. Maybe its Vic Grossniclaus’ death this week and 12-year-old Alice left with her grandma. But it’s a poor comparison for Mother who left a family behind. But poor dear Vic, God rest her soul, for she has lived a rather sad life. Funerals here are so few and far between. Tony Iwan’s was almost two years ago – that when they do occur, they make one realize “Here today, but where tomorrow.?”

I’m still babbling along. Very much improved – but not altogether.

Monday, Febr. 28th

Our sheep were sheared and Ray, Frankie, and Eddie were down to watch the excitement (?) or better described, the novelty.

Let me see – Eddie came on his “rodeo” horse – saddle-less and naturally I wanted a lil ride. But just a gentle ride. Wonder if that horse knows what gentle means. Guess I did something to the reigns that made him fly with a start. Now they tell me – he’s a very sensitive horse. He had no feelings for me when let me off in a ditch as he tried going home. Was I stunned! It just happened so quickly that I did not know what it was all about. I know I was so scared I trembled all over. My knees actually shook. My ankle was weak. Eddie helped me out of the ditch and then went for his horse. A car coming from the east stopped him. It turned out to be Mrs. Kaczor and the funeral man. Gerss, Brr. They tell me I could have been killed. Very fitting for the undertaker to be coming by(?) My ankle was passable the rest of the afternoon. In the evening we went to play cards at Koziols. Beany is home on furlough. Anyway, my ankles began to swell and by two AM, when we were ready to go home, it looked like a balloon. I was still able to walk on it. When I got home, I bandaged it securely and slept.

Tuesday, Feb. 29th.

Mr and Mrs. Lisko came to pick up the things from the card party (oh, we had a card party Sunday the 27th!) Anyway, they thought perhaps my ankle was more than sprained and so off to the Doc I went! After an x-ray (Doc thought it might be cracked), however, all I had was a bad sprain. (Didn’t x-ray my head – so no cracked bones there!) He stuck a great big needle into the ankle to make me able to walk sooner and not to leave any ugly thickness in my ankle. Results: An hour after I came home, I had some terrific pains that made me sob and weak and my teeth chatter. ‘Nuff about the ankle. It coming nicely today (was at Doc’s and had it rebandaged) (Will continue this later)

**Sunday, March 5**

Dear Diary,

Listening to the “Hour of Charm” and it is “charming!” Mm. Evelyn and her violin – sounds heavenly – so soft and sweet. So easy to relax to something like that. Rather dreamy! But “dreams” away, and down to some catching up here. Let’s see, should I finish February?

I read two books. “Keys of the Kingdom” by A. J. Cronin was swell. So human and touching and rather true to life, if a bit radical. Taken from a diary account and brought true to life the trials and hardships of a priest, Father Chisholm, in his striving to do his duty to God the way he saw it. I like old Rusty Mae and Willie and Sister Maria Veronica – it was swell.

Then I read the “Each to the Other.” It was written in poetry and would have been good but it lacked “substance” to make a real book. The story was interesting, though the author stressing “love” didn’t know what real love was. His “love” contained no “sacrifice” – too pagan to suit me. Guess I’m downright old-fashioned and this book too modern for me.!

‘Nuff about books and stuff and guess I’ll get down to reality. Mike is getting his furlough on March 15th. Gee! Gee! It’s wonderful to think of! Won’t be too long now. Yesterday, I had plenty of cleaning to do after being in bed all week! Didn’t do much else.

Today we were at Lisko’s all day. This evening Beanie and Emil came over for visit; Beanie leaves Thursday. He certainly had a nice long furlough – about 17 days – 6 days for travel, so he had 11 days at home. He’s in Amphibian Command as a mechanic. They stayed a couple of hours.

Friday night two lambs were born and Saturday the boys came down and got one of the lambs to drink (or is it suck – or should I get technical?) The other of the twins was so tiny and didn’t know how to find its milk so Fr. gave him to Tony. Now he will be bottle-fed just like Susie was only different cause he’ll have same kind of milk always etc. Ritchie and Lenny are simply “wild” about him and call it “Lamkin” from the story Richie had in school. Another lamb was born today. Doing nicely, I hope!

I’m writing and thinking of it so – ‘scuze all the confusion. Oh, and I don’t think I mentioned Lil’s wedding pictures as coming in and both large one and small snaps came. Not too bad on the big one – rather “dopey” as usual on the snaps.

Didn’t mention either that Esse sent me a rat-tail for my hair and my letters and my odds and ends I left at the house. I was so pleased that my cross out of hard coal wasn’t lost.

Now my conscience is eased and I can be peaceful again – ha – ha.

Well – Bye now

**Monday, March 6th**

Dear Diary,

Today I had an extra big wash to do and am I tired. My ankle sorta hurts but as long as I can walk on it, I am okay.

This evening we went to a show. The only reason I went in Lent was cause the movie was “Madame Curie” and I didn’t want to miss it. This and “Song of Bernadette” are the only ones I’ll go to in Lent and as usual they no doubt will come on during Lent. The movie was superb – the acting beyond words. It was the story of Marie (I like the way it was pronounced on 1st syllable.)

‘Nuff writing. Its late and I’m tired and off to bed. Oh, had a nice letter from Tony today.

Bye now.

**Tuesday, March 7th**

Dear Diary,

A day of rummaging around and cleaning out drawers isn’t very exciting – plus hanging clothes and sorting socks. But many little tasks make up the time that goes into a day. The “Post” came and I read it. Also in the mail, came a book, “From a Morning Prayer.” Now I am to wonder from whom it came. I’m sure the publishing company didn’t make a gift of it for me. Looks like Tony’s work, though I can’t see why. It’s too early for my birthday and too late for any other holiday, so I am left in the dark until further inquiry. Guess I’ll leave you in the dark too.

Bye now

**Wednesday, March 8th**

Dear Diary,

March marches by with its fierce cold winds and days pass by.

The mail man brought me a registered letter from Buttons. It seems that her Mom died last week. I felt very badly about it as her Dad died just before Xmas. So sad to lose both one’s parents so quickly. I wrote back already – also got Netty’s letter finished – a card to Steve and a letter to Mike. Then I forgot to take them along when we had church so they as yet haven’t been mailed.

Ironed today but didn’t finish. Well, that’s today.

Bye now

**Thursday, March 9th**

Dear Diary,

Eddie came in with my “Keys of the Kingdom.” Maryanne asked him to return it since the weekend but. Went with him for the mail but we missed the mail man. Had a letter from S/Sgt Ed today! Kinda cute!

Baked some cookies today too!

Oh, Albin came for his blessing today with Emil and said he left some insignia for me. Forgot to bring it also so he’d have the boys give it to me sometime.

Hip-hip hurray! Got a card out to Lee and typed a letter to the Bishop for Fr. Martin Kaczor was working here this evening and he mailed these. After he left, I wrote to Rose Anne and returned the negatives and a card to Tony and that’s all for today too!

Bye now

**Friday, March 10th**

Dear Diary,

No letter today – oh, why don’t you write – ta ta – (song). Got my saving stamps and wrote to Miss Bolson for my party book. We had church today and I gave Mrs. Lisko my letters to mail and then, of all things, we decide to go over there and Fr. played Buck. I played a game and got a buck, so I let Gene play instead. Nothing more to write, so

Bye now

**Saturday, March 11th**

Dear Diary,

Had catechism class this morning and naturally I taught.

The mail was nice – letters from Lou and Rich! I guess I should really get down to business and write that brother of mine one real letter.

Well, today is out of the question. I baked and cleaned house and washed my hair and oh! there isn’t time for much else. I did my eyebrows though, a super job, I mean. And now it’s time for some shut-eye.

Bye now!

**Sunday, March 12th**

Dear Diary,

We had late mass and since the 4th was postponed, there isn’t much doing. Soo- Mara and De Verne stayed over and visited and we had a dinner or supper, what ever you would call a 4 o’clock meal. De Verne fried the hamburgers and I set the table and got everything else set. Had a nice visit.

This evening, Fr. Joe came over from Lincoln. He was stuck for two hours, so he was cold and hungry so we took care of him and fed him and in this house, anyone can get warm. He is staying until tomorrow.

By the way, everyone today liked my raisin bread! (ahem!)

Bye now

**Monday, March 13th**

Dear Diary,

I sang the Requiem for Fr. Joe’s high mass and after he left (by eight) I did chores and we went to town. Got some groceries and meat and that’s all.

Financially, I am on the short side!

Men were down and started tearing down the rest of the old hose.

Mail call was nice. Had another V-letter from Rich and a plain letter from Leo Topic, which made exceptional food time on “free” – as good as an air mail. But that’s seldom!

Finished sewing buttons on my jumper after Mrs. Mother fixed it up today – so it fits me. That’s all there is – there ain’t no more –

Bye now

**Tuesday, March 14th**

Dear Diary,

This was “Baking Day” and boy! I really did bake. Made sweet dough raisin bread and rolls and then a double batch each of 3 types of cookies! I baked the cookies after supper and it took me to 11:30 and after cleaning up my kitchen, I find its after midnight.

Had a letter from Loretta N today with a mass intention.

Not much to write except it rained and the rain froze and it’s just awful trying to walk without falling. I did walk clear to the corner for the mail this evening about seven.

Boy, the radio is makin’ with the music – la! la! And it is swell to listen to and use the imagination – esp. since its coming from Chicago. Now it would be nice to be hearing that same music in Esse’s kitchen. Guess I’d rather be there right now than anyplace else I can think of.

Oh, I wrote a card to Mary Anne and to Henrietta and a letter to Danny.

Well Bye now

**Wednesday [March 15th]**

Dear Diary,

Today was a drizzly day but anyway I picked sticks all day and carried them into the basement. Uneventful so all that was my day. No mail er nuthin to put some zip into today’s mail call.

After church we went to Lisko’s and Fr. played cards all evening. I visited with Mrs. L and that’s all for today.

Bye now

**Thursday [March 16]**

Dear Diary,

Today was one of those company days – well in the first place I walked for mail and then Fr. came with his Model A. We gave Mrs. Iwan a ride home and it was a while before we came home. For the mail, I got the OFV, which was nice. Had one joke printed under D.J. and found 2 other items I sent in scattered around. Then Esse had a letter printed with Sis Delphine this and that. My oh my, was I popular er sumthin’ this issue. But guess it’s mostly sumthin’.

Then I had a letter – imagine a whole letter and N.N. from Dorothea. She hasn’t written for ages and ages. Jeannie wrote too – which was nice.

This afternoon Florence and Mrs. Kaczor and Kitty and Ed came down – and brought a very delicious chocolate cake – mm – but it was really good!

Fr. went to St. Joe’s so I’ve been cleaning up a little and listening to the radio and reading yesterday’s “Sat. Post.” [Saturday Evening Post magazine]

Guess I’ll sign off now

Bye

**Friday, March 17th**

Dear Diary,

Had a touch of the stomach flu and the day was plainly miserable. Couldn’t eat – so didn’t, and also didn’t do anything else. After a while I felt like sitting up, so made Fr. some supper and straightened out the dishes. No church this evening since only 2 cars came and it was snowing. Pulled out all my OFV’s this evening and got them chronologically arranged. After I finished with this, will finish reading “From a Morning Prayer,” the book I got from my anonymous giver.

Oh, the mail man brought me “At Your Service,” a bit of a poetry book by Florence Balcom and the N.N. It is poetry for the boys in the service and its pretty grand some of it – naturally it all can’t be “super.” And now

Bye now

**Saturday, March 18th**

Dear Diary,

I’m so tired, I shan’t write much. I cleaned house and we had a lil’ laundry boom and oh! I’ve been so busy and I’m sooo tired. Had a letter from Chester or to distinguish him from cousin Chester, I should say from Netty. It was quite a nice letter. That’s gonna be all for tonight.

Bye now

**Feast of St. Joseph – Sunday, March 19th**

Dear Diary,

This was 4-H Sunday, rather delayed it all but finally gone through. Mars wasn’t there so I took over. We were at Kontors and had a lovely lunch after it was over. We sorta discussed Marian’s formal and in all it was nice. I stayed until evening devotions. We made curlers too this evening. Mrs. Lisko, Fr and I played “Buck” at Johnnies [Kresha] and I enjoyed playing. Mrs. Lisko and Mrs. [Caroline] Kresha visited during that time. It’s getting closer to Monday than is necessary, so I’m goin’ to dreamland before that clock hits 1 AM.

Bye now

**First day of Spring Monday, March 20th**

Dear Diary,

The first day of spring – and it’s been simply wonderful out! Warm and sunny and not a bit cold. Fr. stacked up and chopped wood and I got it into the basement. It was a perfect day for being outdoors.

No mail today and that was a bit disappointing so this evening I got busy and wrote some letters. Lets see: Tony, S/Sgt Ed, Audrey (a letter to her on the spur of the moment – just cause I hear a beautiful rendition of “Rhapsody in Blue” – her favorite, not that I owed her a letter – just a surprise letter) oh, and Chester J and Florence Balcom. Rather a nice bundle, or load off my conscience. At least I’ve something to look forward to – in answers.

I ran a silly streak and drew pictures and notes and birds – and altogether Spring Feverish! Guess what, with the 1st day of spring, I am half way through in pages with you, Diary Dear. ‘Nuff is ‘nuff and is a nuff!

Bye now

**Tuesday, March 21st**

Dear Diary,

Just as yesterday was a perfect spring day, today has been a perfect winter day. Morning was cloudy with a wind that could definitely be labeled “Ferocious March Howl.” Then it snowed this afternoon and it’s still snowing and mostly blowing and drifting up the roads so that I suppose there won’t be any mail tomorrow.

Walked clear to the corner and waited “2 decades” for the mail man cause I could see him from afar. At this rate, I’ll be able to see at a good distance too! I had a nice mail call. V-mail from Rich (which is always so welcome it was even humorous. Boy, am I in a mood to ramble off about injustices and lousy breaks but I better stick that chin up a bit higher and skip it.) Also had a letter from Tony in answer to my card and it was coincidental since I had a letter off to him this morning. Such a life!

I baked today and this evening. I’ve a bad mood to work off by myself. ‘Spect to read a bit yet and read off my blues.

Bye now

**Wednesday, March 22nd**

Dear Diary,

Well, the mail man got through, after a fashion, today and Ray and Eddie came on their horses to bring it. Ray kidded me about a ride on his horse but, I aint’ courageous enough! Walked down to Rose’s this afternoon after a tire pump. The weather was warm and it was nice for walking except it was hard to walk in the snow.

This evening I got my F.V together and I got them nicely stapled. Am missing two copies. Nothing much to write about so I guess its

Bye now

**Thursday, March 23rd**

Dear Diary,

Seems like Thursdays are becoming real ‘company’ days. Today started off with a bang! Henrietta and Edwin and Bill were here for mass and it was nice seeing them again. Hank had her hair fixed simply peachy in the back – braided and it look swell! Then Mrs. Leimser brought in some hay and Eddie brought the mail. (no letters). Both the above helped Fr. get the Pontiac out of a rut – it was stuck quite badly. [horses pulled the car onto the hay, giving it traction]

And just as soon as the horses drove out of the yard, in drove Fr. Jerry and Mike! I’ve been expecting them this week sometime. (By the way, I am writing this on Friday cause – well just cause “it was a swell deal” all around – it was too late to last night.) They came about 3 in the afternoon.

Oh yes, we had a lamb today too. (getting out of line here)

Mike gave me a book, “World’s Greatest Catholic Poetry” by Walsh and it looks pretty super to me! And I do mean super!! I had him inscribe it. In the evening we drove to Duncan for some meat and had a nice supper. Roads were bad and so we drove in slowly and sang a bit and talked some.

Later this evening we went to Church and prayed our rosary together and it’s something I won’t forget. We were also left alone by the Padre’s for about 1 hr and ½ and we settled a bit of misunderstandings – which all lead up to “wait until it’s over and it’s too bad there’s a war on – things would be different.” “But they will be, someday,” which borders on ‘Greek,’ but makes a lot of sense ‘thunk out.’ No nuthin’ but a swell friendship since “one doesn’t know if I come back, how I come back.” That’s about it.

“It’s a swell deal, Fr. Jerry.” Yep and it was. Fr. Jerry was a swell pal too – and Fr. Ed must have enjoyed Mike too since each tried out-talking the other and guess who naturally won out – naturally my brother! It was swell and memorable. Mike looked exceptionally swell in his outfit complete with hat et. all. That’ about all I can write – the rest is to remember!

Bye – nope it was So long,

**Friday, March 24th**

Dear Diary,

Well, you can imagine how much I didn’t get done today. Slept late, etc. No mail today but decided to get some out of the way tonight. Wrote to Esse and Rich, Lou, and Regina and sent Rich a birthday card and also one to Helen Lisko.

I cleaned upstairs today and now I’m up late what with long letter to Esse and all. So for now –

Bye

**Saturday, March 25th**

Dear Diary,

Catechism classes this morning. Kids carried in a nice stack of wood.

Washed my hair and put it up – this afternoon. Finished cleaning house and spent some time talking to Fr. about cattle etc. Rather interesting.

The mail man brought me a letter from Ernie today. Rather a nice letter at that and it made me feel like I’m helping something to hear from someone way out in Tarawa! [Tarawa is a tiny island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean] Guess this’ll be all for now.

Bye now

**Sunday, March 26th**

Dear Diary,

It snowed this morning, so I went out before 10:30 mass and did all my chores. This afternoon a lamb was born and so I had to watch it while it was getting dried out.

Read my book of poetry from Mike – and since I was rather blue – it helped some. This evening we were at Kontors. I didn’t play till the last game and then they all decided to play against me so I’d get the “Buck.” But when one is lucky and gets good cards, that’s hard to do. Made (12) twice and then played a lone hand and there it was! Now I’m sleepy and so its

Bye now

**Monday, March 27th**

Dear Diary,

I washed clothes – and washed clothes!!! Until the very mention of clothes gets me down. Had two letters today. Lily Anne wrote and sent me some pictures. Then I had a card from Tony to hop right out of bed, etc. Very cute and it made me feel pretty good!

So sleepy, So Bye

**Tuesday, March 28th**

Dear Diary,

Guess what? I had a letter from Mike today and they must have been stuck somewhere going home because he wrote that they didn’t get into Wilber [NE] til noon! I can’t imagine what happened. But he didn’t bother informing me anymore. Some letter – sweet as – well, I answered it and there will be some changes made! Didn’t accomplish very much today. The men were here and were banking dirt up against the house. Will we look nice – when its finished! Guess that’s all for now!

Bye

**Wednesday, March 29th**

Dear Diary,

A lamb was born today and her mama took care of her all by herself!

I had no mail – today – but I’ll have to get down and answer any mail first I suppose. Got lots of letters in the ‘answer soon’ file.

-------Break in entries---------

**Thursday, May 18th**

Dear Diary,

And what happened to the last of March and all of April and part of May? Well, Del got lazy ‘bout you. Will try to do a little catching up here tonight and wonder where I’ll get or how I’ll think of the oodles of things that have happened.

Right off though, had my 22nd birthday in April [8th] and it was swell. It was on Holy Saturday and I suppose that made me feel extra special too. Mother baked an Angel Food cake for me – mm – it was grand and also gave me a darling crochet pin cushion with a dollar tacked on it. Jeannie gave me Pine Bath Set and Lou gave me box of candy and Regina Lisko gave me a bubble bath set. Mary Anne brought in a spring chicken for us. It was a swell day all around – got the very cutest cards from Esse and the children sent one for “aunt!” Mike sent a cute card too. Loretta N sent me a lovely scarf, very sheer and pretty print on a white background.

Easter Sunday, we spent at Gryva’s and in the evening at Kontors. Had a nice time at both places. Helen was home and she had so much to say!

Also in April, I got my hope chest – went to Assumption and Deweese – men came over and played buck and celebrated Fr.’s 9th anniversary. Fr. Jerry gave a mission in St. Andrews.

Had a good argument through the mail with Mike. I wanted to jot these things down while I think of them – now will enlarge on them.

My hope chest is very beautiful. It is a “Sterling.” It is made of matched walnut and heavily lined cedar. The lines are simple and beautiful. I like it a lot. It’s a long-promised gift from Fr. Ed. This January, Fr. give me $35 and I sent it to Fr. Joe. This April, Fr. Joe was able to get it for me. It cost $39.50. Its grand and I have all my things in it!

Fr. Jerry was down twice during his mission at St. Andrews. Fr. Ed and I had a nice visit out of it. I, of course, sorta sit in and listen – interesting.

Oh, and must write in about the visit to Assumption and Deweese. Fr. Ed’s class had a reunion at Fr. Eckies on Wed. but we left Tues. evening and stayed at Fr. Al’s before we left for Deweese. Met Rose Koziol – Fr. Al’s housekeeper – and she is very, very sweet. I enjoyed her company a lot though I didn’t expect to. The rectory is really a mammoth and redecorated, wonderfully well. Also, the rectory in Deweese is as nice and almost as large. I like the cute dinette at Deweese and the kitchen was pretty swell. Enjoyed the part of the evening where Fr. A. Antachowski played the piano for the housekeepers. We all sang. Fr. A and I sang “By the River of the Roses” and “Rose of San Antone” alone – in 2 voices and it was swell. Boy, then Rose and I danced some polkas together and enjoyed the music a lot. Fr. Antachowski’s a genius at the piano and it’s a thrill to hear him play! Golly gee, am getting to the end of this rather well.

Oh yes, during later part of April and early May, there was a time I thought I would plain quit writing to Mike. All I can say I am disappointed in him and he isn’t what I thought him to be. Not after the one letter where he got mad for the call down I gave him. I guess I’m not going to have anyone saying sweet things when they don’t mean it. Boy, the sentence where he said he didn’t make any attempts ever at finding a sweetheart. WELL – I wonder why he thought he was writing so much of the time. We did get straightened out, sort off. Boy, but if he ever dares write sweet things – his letter is going to get sent back and I do mean it!

Oh, and since Holy Week, I have a new correspondent – Tom Meysenburg. He was a freshie when I was a Senior [at Bellwood] High. He’s in the Navy now. Writes very nice and interesting letters.

Okay, so I’m about to come to May – Fr. John was down last Sunday and I was at the dance. Oh, and we had the 4-H at the rectory and from this I went to the Swantek twins’ school picnic. From this I went with Mars to Duncan for the dance. Came home during the intermission.

Fr. John was down all day Monday and in the evening we all went to the show and saw “Shine on Harvest Moon.”

----------Break in dates-----------

The other two weeks in June were spent cleaning up the place and getting ready for Confirmation.

July 2nd – I had a nice time out for Confirmation. Bishop was handing out roses and even passed a few my way. Don’t ask me what he said – but I guess it was nice. He gave Fr. $100 and $100 for me too. I’ve got 60 bucks yet. Spent the $40 on the clothes I needed badly.

Fr. went to Lincoln the next day and was made sorta responsible in an interesting way about the hospital building in Osceola. Fathers Tom and Mike stayed for breakfast and then before they left, they opened up a bottle of champagne that was left and I had some too. Mm – it was good! During July, Father was away most of the time in Osceola helping with the work at the hospital. Around here I can mention I saw the following movies: “Cry Havoc,” “See Here, Private Hargrove,” “Cross of Lorraine,” “True to Life,” “Passage to Marseille,” “She for Hire,” “Song of Bernadette.” Which brings me up to some definite dates. I sorta figured them out.

July 9 – Benefit dance and Bingo in Shelby for Osceola Hospital. First of all, we were at Harold Cockson’s for a birthday supper for Father Ed. Met Fr. John Kozlile and took him along. I got along just dandy with 3-year-old “Geraldine Josephine Cockson” who had to leave the locks combed out of her hair so she could wear her hair long like Delphine’s. I went to Shelby with them.

S/Sgt Ed Zelasney was home on furlough and I almost won Bingo while playing with him. That is, I won Bingo but it was a draw as there was another bingo – and then I lost! He tagged along during intermission and we played penny bingo and also, we did some talking. Got along swell dancing with him. He brought the Kropatsch girls and we all went home together. I was the last one home since I lived the furthest!

July 12 – Rose Lisko is home this month and I went with her to the dance in Silver Creek. Had a perfectly swell time – and that’s no foolin’. Ed tries to get a second dance be since he would ask ahead of time – but he got left out. In comes Glenn Kresha. He had about 4 dances with me and so I had a date for Sunday July 16 – We saw the “Sullivans.” Had a sundae at Malik’s and met some of his pals. Let me see – this sorta started something and I was dated the following two Sundays. The 30th we saw “Buffalo Bill” and on Aug 6th we went to the Duncan dance. Had a nice time. He’s an okay kid – but period. I don’t feel like being serious about anyone.

On August 7th I landed in the hospital! I’ll start from the beginning. I finished [painting] the walls in the west room and painted the closets of this room. So – I had paint smudges all over my legs and arms – gas removes paint nicely. So, I removed the paint. Then – I couldn’t get the garbage burned in the stove so I decided to use the gas left over from cleaning me off. Since I was ready for a shower, I was barefooted and in shorts. Anyway, the gas in the jar caught afire and, in my attempt to get it away from myself, I spilled some on the floor and I got the rest on the table. Before I could count to two, everything on the table was blazing – and my only thought was – wooden walls – pull off the table cloth. This I did, then noticed my foot was on fire, so I ran out – yelled for Padre and put out the fire on my foot.

Father got to the hose and I ran back and forth with hands full of sand. When we got the fire out, my foot really began hurting, so I slipped on a dress over the dirty shorts, grabbed some Vaseline and we were off to Duncan to Doc’s so I could get some relief. No Doc – so to Columbus we went.

Boy, it was lousy – I didn’t see how I’d ever last out. When I got to the hospital, there wasn’t any doctor here, so we called Doc James. Sisters decided I’d have to get to bed. I thought this would just be an overnight visit at the most. It lasted a long time, from Monday eve till Sunday eve, (7th-13th). Everyone was so nice to me at the hospital – but, boy did I hate staying after a couple of days. Marsie sent me flowers; Chas Fricke and Harry Rinder sent a cute Cutex nail polish set up and the papers of the day; Marianne brought me an assortment of candy bars and “Hit Parade”; Mother and Marge brought me a box of candy; Joan Stanzyk came with ½ dozen oranges; Jerry sneaked me in some ice cream and gave me a Milky Way; Imogene Kosch came to see me and brought a malted milk with her; and Mrs. Micek and Iggy Iwan got me some gay garden flowers as did Dolores Smagacz. I had enough visitors and I read, and read so many magazines.

Mrs. Murphy was the supposedly cranky nurse who was just too darned swell all the way through to me. Really – she’d braid my hair and tie them with bits of gauze and I looked kinda cute. Father came after me Sunday August 13. It was after nine in the evening. From the hospital we went to the St. Andrews picnic. I sat at the Bingo all evening, my foot on a box. Won Bingo twice. Got a lovely blanket and toward the end of the evening, Glenn got out of working so we played together for – for a cute doll. I won the very last game. So now have ‘Suzanne’ who I will give to Glenn before I leave – for safe keeping.

August 20th - we went to show and saw “Four Jills in a Jeep.” By August 23rd I began wearing a shoe. Went to the show with Ed Iwan that evening and saw “Knickerbocker Holiday” with Nelson Eddie. Saw Helen Iwan at the show.

On August 27th we had our [Pilzno] picnic. It was the usual big affair. So, there was the excitement of getting ready for it. Inez helped me out two days that week. Had my picture snapped with some cowboys – just for fun and it was fun all around. Martin and Lawrence were the clowns and I had my picture snapped with them too. I worked in Bingo and missed out on the Sunday Rodeo. Got to the dance with Glenn for a while. Had a dance with Martin too. Fun too! After the raffle I got to the dance again for a while. So, it was okay.

August 28th - Ladies came to clean up a little. In the afternoon we had another Rodeo but it was just an experiment. There wasn’t as much of a crowd. I got better acquainted with Dorothy Sorys, the acrobat that performed at our Rodeo.

Monday evening, we had a little dance with Cuba’s orchestra. Not very crowded. Anyway, it was over at twelve.

Then the fun began. The kids from the orchestra played by the garage here and Martin, Dorothy, Virginia and I and Dorothy’s cousin were dancing here. Then we got plain silly and began playing Farmers in the Dells and got Louis Lisko, Edwin and some others to play too. Then London Bridge and then singing “Pistol Packin’ Mama” and getting to bed at 2:30 AM.

Martin, Dorothy, and Rosie (D’s cousin) stayed overnight and we all went to Omaha Tuesday to take Dorothy back. We gave Helen Kontor a ride in too. On the way in we had a blow-out which delayed us so much that Dorothy didn’t get to work and we all went over to her place (except Helen). Anyway, we had a great time – swell supper – then saw the movies at “Parks” from the previous Rodeo. We started back for Pilzno at 11 PM that evening. We went in Martin’s car and he had bum lights that went out altogether 3 miles this side of Fremont. Got that fixed and it was better. We had rain all the way in – missed the ditch a few times – by the lights of some trucks but got home finally by four. Father, Martin, and I were the only ones returning. We stopped for some coffee twice. It helped.

So, then it was Wednesday and then it was Thursday, cause I didn’t accomplish much of anything Wednesday. Thursday, I started washing the kitchen wall that was black from the fire yet. Fr. Kozlik came over and that set me back till Friday noon. Inez and Rita came on Fri. afternoon and we all got busy. The kids and Father got all the picnic stuff put away properly and then Inez helped me wash the bottom of the kitchen.

Saturday, Sept. 2nd, we got some furniture – a studio couch, desk, and a few open book cases. Inez came Saturday and we were in the midst of cleaning downstairs, the upstairs was clean by this time when Fathers Koziol and Wsczal, the missionaries, arrived.

September 3 – The mission started. Oh, yes, the Padres were so thoughtful about everything – housecleaning and all. Anyway, September 3rd to the eighth I attended the mission. I guess I could get a day by day description in here quite well as the days were very memorable – I never laughed so for very many days. However, I’ll just take the days in general – except for the Sundays.

On the 3rd, which was a Sunday, we had early mass at St. Mary’s. It seemed during Saturday and Sunday – it was a race to see how many tablecloths could get dirtied. Very unintentionally, Fr. Schultz spilled the cream Saturday afternoon. Sunday morning, just before I got all of Fr. Jack’s breakfast served, I tipped over a glass of strained orange juice. So, then I cleared off the dining room table and served in the kitchen. Fr. Schultz didn’t come in till after all the services were over in St. Joe’s. Church services were held in the afternoon because of Duncan’s Picnic.

Martin Ziemba came out with a bunch of kids – to entertain the Padres. Dorothy brought Rose back to Fullerton and stayed the Labor Day week end – so she was along. Virginia – her cousin came too. Played the organ and Mart played a harmonica – the Fr. Kozlik came over too. Fr. Ed went after “Schultz” who got to visiting in St. Joes.

Later, when everyone was here, Dorothy gave us some real entertainment. She did numerous tricks and flips which were breath-taking in our little room – she even spinned around on her head – then she did two ballet dances for us. When she was a youngster, she was acclaimed the best child acrobat in America. She’s a grand kid – not one bit proud about her achievements. Then Father Jack and Schultz did their famous “drunk” act and kept us in stitches all the way through. Glenn came in time to see Dorothy’s act and waited until mine. We all went to Duncan for the dance – and the Padre’s also went – to play some bingo and stuff.

Glenn gave me a lovely little heart locket to remember him by.

Monday the 4th Fr. Schultz was late a half hour for his services since Fr. had car trouble. Well, Mr Zweines asked if he’d like staying there all week. Well, it was the best way out, since Fr.’s Pontiac isn’t in the best of condition. Therefore, all week I had only Fr. Jack to cook for.

Monday was memorable – it taught me a lesson – about keeping my mouth shut in the choir. I was a bundle of nerves Monday night – and then we got things straightened out. These sentences are all I need to remind me of the incident. I don’t want to be uncharitable and bring in names. Fr. Jack and Ed were swell about staying up and keeping me talking till I calmed down.

Inez helped me every afternoon except Tuesday.

Tuesday we were all invited to dinner at Filipowicz’s. Fr. Jack helped me with dishes since I didn’t get them washed before church. He helped twice again during the week. Let me see – mustn’t forget “eggy” Saturday – or potato pancakes. Friday. Oh heck, I’ll get chronological again. I miss out so much otherwise.

Wednesday, I washed clothes and in the evening after church we went to J.B. Koziol’s for the evening. I got my emblems Beanie left for me – ages ago! Thursday the mission goods came in. Supper got served late because Fr. Ed was visiting and also because Fr. Jack was whittling out of a piece to fix Fr.’s gas pedal.

Anyway, Thursday evening we got all the mission things unpacked – Emil helped me. It was rather late when I got at the dishes, so Fr. Jack helped wipe. He was swell – he’d take the fly swatter and kill flies, fixed the radio, seems he likes doing odd little jobs like that.

Friday, I helped get the mission goods priced. Father Pulaski was down for lunch and supper. We no sooner got done with lunch – in drops Father Willie Borach. More Lunch. They all drove down to St. Joe’s to take Fr. Schultz his mission goods. When they came back, Fr. Willie left for home – 196 miles. Oh yes – pancakes – potato pancakes. I didn’t realize they would take so long to fry. Late again. Well, I could have gotten my dishes done except about seven o’clock people started piling into the basement for the mission goods – I didn’t even eat supper. This was Fr. Jack’s third night with dishes.

Saturday the twins helped me all day. The jokes were flying for their benefit and Fr. Jack really kept them laughing.

Sunday, September 10 – I’m really catching up. This was another “full” day. It started with dinner at the Zweiners. Very luscious. Okay. So, Father Ed had to leave to go to Osceola for a meeting. The Bishop was there. We stayed on. Cletus’s girlfriend came down on a horse, a thoroughbred one too. Soo, I wished and wished, and got a pair of slacks and rode. My high heel shoes were too uncomfortable so I went without them. Wrong again. My feet kept slipping out of the stirrups since I stood up most of the time. It was great fun. When I got back in the yard, I was stopping the horse and all of a sudden, I started slipping off, with the saddle. Mr. Zweiner came to the rescue and put me on straight. I got scared good and plenty – my knee and foot in the stirrup was shaking but instead of getting off, I went for another ride so that I’d conquer that fear. I did and don’t regret it either.

We went home at 3:30. As soon as we got home, Fr. Jack started counting the money from St. Joe’s. Martin and his girlfriend Clara came over. Martin and Fr. Schultz are two of a kind for being funny and that’s why Martin came again. We sold him a chain and one for Clara. I got a lovely sterling silver chain, too, compliments of the missionaries for being such a good lil cook, er, sumpthin’ – mostly something. It’s a nice remembrance though. Rose, Frankie and Edwin came over for a while and they brought a fiddle for Fr. Schultz to play. Laughs and laughs! Martin and Clara stayed for supper. The laughs kept up. They left at nine thirty to the dance in Duncan.

I called my date with Glenn off as just couldn’t scram every Sunday. Laughing all the time on a nervous stomach made me sick – no supper (left in my tummy). Father Jack helped with dishes and then prayed his office. We all had a pleasant evening after the laughter calmed down for a while.

And then it was Monday, Monday we got the mission goods packed up. I pressed trousers too and before we knew it, it was six o’clock and we had to leave for Columbus. They were catching this early evening train. It was suddenly too quiet!

At the depot, Harold Cockson and Geraldine were there to say goodbye to Fr. Schultz. We waited about ten minutes before the train came. Fr. and I went through town on the way home and saw the Japanese Sub that they had displayed – only one left from Pearl Harbor. Got home around eight and decided to get out, as the quiet was just too much. Went to Osceola and saw “Eve of St. Mark.” Good movie. Tuesday, I didn’t get much done and, in the evening, I started writing in you. Finishing up Wednesday morning. This is all for now!

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**[letter]**

St. Mary’s Church

Osceola, Nebraska

September 7, 1944

Dear Glenn,

Guess I should write “no” and you’ll understand what that means. Yep, I have to hang around since Fr. has invited a few priests that all went to school together so that means I won’t be off duty. So sorry.

I’m so busy these days that I don’t know if I’m coming or going – I’m mostly going I guess!

Bye now & B C’ n U.

Delphine

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**Tuesday, September 12th**

Hi Diary,

I get a headache when I think how badly I’ve mistreated you. I’d sorta like to catch up on things again and keep you straight this last month – yep, I’m leaving Nebraska at the end of the month. Just at present I can’t think how the rest of May ended at all. So, I shall start with June.

In June the sisters were here for two weeks and was the usual hassle of getting dinner and lunch ready and then trying to get the regular work in too. Gene Kontor helped me cook – she was swell. During this time the children did a lot of painting around the rectory – the back porch – storm windows and they scraped some window for me. We also had a misfortune – the kids stacked my dirty clothes against the furnace and not realizing this – I started a fire in the furnace. Two weeks wash burned down, though nothing else was damaged, which was a blessing.

**Saturday, September 16th**

Began to read “The Robe” on Wednesday and finished it on Thursday. Enjoyed it a lot. Thursday evening Fr. Jerry came over for a visit. Friday went to Columbus with Fr. Jerry and then to Osceola. Fr. wanted to meet the sisters. They are really nice. I stayed over at the Ienn’s. – met Morris. And then went to Omaha with them to get Mary Louise from the train. Helen and I sang all the way up, with the help of Morris, who is a nice guy. Came home this noon with the trucker since Fr. Ed sold out all his sheep and calves. Going to see “Going My Way” with Morris Monday or Tuesday. Got a date for tomorrow with Albert Koenig.

**Monday, September 18th**

Dear Diary,

On Sunday went to see “In Society” with Bud Abbott and Lou Costello. Fr. said Glenn came down too. I’m glad I was gone early – but darn, I don’t like being taken for granted either – so there. However, if I knew things would have turned out the way they did – would never have gone with Albert. Gosh – he all but proposed to me so I refused another date absolutely. I refused anyway after he started to talk – I refused more definitely. Gosh, what some people don’t think of – after one date!! He wasn’t fresh but that gosh – so serious-minded that I practically shivered at the thought of it. Luella and George went along with us – except when he drove me home.

Well, that was Sunday and as to how today turns out is another question. I was supposed to go with Father to Osceola and see the movie tonight but, oh shux, Father didn’t seem willing for me to go, so I’m still here. I cleaned the house today.

**Monday, October 9th**

Dear Diary

Here I am again, late as ever but better late than never.

Well, I’ll get on where I left off. I didn’t go to the movie Monday but I went instead on Tuesday. Morris took me and it was the third time he saw “Going My Way.” I enjoyed the movie a lot. It was really a swell picture, with tears, et. al. Had a sundae at Sam Crouse’s [Drug Store] and since Mr. Crouse was in alone and had a mess to cleanup – I helped out a little bit. I stayed overnight at Ienn’s and worked at the hospital the next day – from pulling nails and knocking down plaster to carrying out old plaster and carrying in new plaster. Boy, was I tired! Mary Louise and Morris drove me in to Pilzno about five that afternoon. I went up with Father that Friday again and worked some more.

On Sunday Sept. the 24th, had a date with Glenn and went to a movie in Osceola and saw “Double Indemnity” – a murder mystery which was pretty good.

During this week I guess I was in Osceola on a Wednesday and Helen and I went to the movie and saw “Traitors Within” and “Nobody’s Darling.” We had fun eating popcorn and jabbering. Mary Louise asked me to stay overnight as this was her last night at home so I did it. Morris started at the Agricultural College at Nebraska U. We girls had lots of fun together.

This night the Rev. Mother came in and the Ienn’s took over a supper at 11 o’clock that night. Ever since we saw “Going My Way,” we picked up the “Say hello to the Fadder” line and now that the Rev. Mother was here, Mary Lou and I quipped about “the Mudder and the Fadder.” I embarrassed Mary Lou in front of the ‘Mudder’ and the ‘Fadder.’ Some fun!!

Friday evening, Father had a meeting to attend at the hospital, so I went to the show and saw Gene Autry in “Oh Susanna.” I had my house all clean on Friday and Sisters were here Saturday to teach catechism. Made a lunch of a sort.

Sunday, Oct 1 went to Columbus with Glenn and saw “Bathing Beauty” in technicolor which was really beautiful.

Oh, in the afternoon, Martin, Derek, and Dick were here to see Father, but the Father wasn’t home so they jacked around here until he did come. They had a fiddle and a clarinet so we had Polish music too.

Now I am started on October. This week I started on the upstairs rooms. Monday night Fr. had to go to York to hear a Polish lady’s confession. I went for the ride. We landed up at Fr. Kozlik’s from York and spent the night there. Julie is his housekeeper and she had to go into Osceola the following day, so we went on to visit Fr. Jerry at Wilber. He has a wonderful setup there. If he could only get his two nuns. We went all over the place rummaging around and enjoying ourselves thoroughly. Me and my chiseling. I came home with quite a few nice things – a lovely crocheted pot holder from Fr. Pokorny – I like Fr. Jerry’s mother – she’s so awfully nice. Then I got some seals, a three-minute egg timer and darling scenery pictures. Oh, I got a darling center piece at Father Kozlik’s.

The rest of the week I spent really working on the upstairs.

Last night I went to the dance with Glenn. I had a swell time – perfect music – and what moves?

Now I feel swell – I’m all caught up with you again, ‘scept I went to show Wednesday night and saw “Adventures of Mark Twain.” A grand movie! So, I am caught up to the 9th of October.

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**[letter]**

St. Mary’s Church

Osceola, Nebraska

October 21, 1944

Dear Glenn,

I received your letter Wednesday but have been too busy to answer it before this. I have been at the hospital working all day Thursday and Friday… so I couldn’t very well sit down to write. Helen came home with me last night and is staying over this week-end and we are having a jolly time of it. Right now, we are waiting for our bath water to heat so we can clean up for Sunday.

I was sorry to hear that you were layed up. It seems that we both had colds at the same time though mine was not too serious, I mean, I did not stay in bed with mine. I had a sore throat Sunday. On Monday, there were ten people here for supper and we played “Buck” afterwards. They were all married folks and I did not have the supper to fix. So naturally I enjoyed myself a lot. Lucy Albers told me that Sophie told her that the flu was bothering at your home and that she thought you were also layed up with it. So then I did not feel so bad about being stood-up Sunday.

I must tell you that I cannot extend your good wishes to Susie [dog] since she is no longer with me. Geraldine Cockson took a great liking to her and so Susie left home. I know she will be happy with her new home and she will have more attention than she received here.

‘Nuff about Susie. I’ll have to be closing soon. However, I see that there is a dance in Duncan Tuesday and if you want to come up after me, it’s okay. It’ll probably be our last chance together since the coming Sunday is the Hospital Dedication and the Sunday after that I shall be leaving. Happy day for you! Hmm???

Now it’ll have to be “So-long for a while --- that’s all the news for a while.”

Bye now…

Del

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**Saturday, November 11**

Diary dear,

Today should be my last full day here – but the way we have been getting out to Chicago – I just don’t know. Anyway, I’ll have to bring you up to date, so that I will have my Nebraska doings written in Nebraska. I can remember some highlights, so here goes.

On Oct. 11th – St. Andrews gave a bingo party in Osceola for the Benefit of St. Francis Hospital. Okay. So, I was there. Lost my dough playing bingo but – I should make that a capital but – okay. BUT that ain’t the half of it. After having lunch and playing some Penny Bingo, too, I wandered upstairs to the gambling part. Well, they quit playing the horses and the Church. Luck was all that was going. Me? I had 45 cents to spend. So-o-o I decided to play. I played No. 2 all the time – first just playing a nickel a throw. With luck, I kept 70 cents ahead, which wasn’t bad. Then I decided to venture into it and played two dimes and the nickel or one dime and the nickel. Well – my luck really held – I won close to four bucks and then some but don’t quite know since I spent a lot on food-stuff. My brother was spending my earnings – ha! Ha!

On Sunday the 15th, Glenn didn’t come around – sick with the flu. Father went to Ziembas for supper and I wrote letters expecting my date. At 8:30 Father came home so we went to the show in Osceola.

Monday the 16th, Leo Albers, Harold Cockson, Sr, Bradfuchers, Mrs. Harold Cockson, Sr. Geraldine and Ten and the little Albers boy all were over with a supper – Duck and all the trimmings: dressing, salads, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetables, ice cream, and angel food cake! John Kemp came over accidentally, so we asked him to stay over too. Played “Buck” and had fun! Received a lovely lapel pin as a farewell gift.

On the Wed. the 18th and Thurs the 19th I was at Osceola – worked at the Hospital Wednesday evening. Helen and I played ping-pong and we had a lot of fun.

Friday evening Oct. 20th, Helen came over for the weekend at Pilzno. We just fooled around more than anything else.

I also had my hunch that Glenn would come over, but I was determined not to go with him after him not letting me know he couldn’t come over. After all, he could have had one of his brothers drive down and let me know he couldn’t come. As per hunch, he came over with a bouquet of flowers (peace offering?). Guess Helen’s presence surprised him, but he was willing to have her come along – but Helen’s folks don’t let her go to dances yet, so I would not go to the dance in Shelby. I was firm about it so, “just to be with me, couldn’t we all go to Columbus to the show?” I gave in and off to the show we went. We saw “Take it or Leave It” and “Song of the Open Road.” Enjoyed both movies a lot.

Helen was having “Clean Up Week” or something at school so she didn’t get home till Monday afternoon.

Can’t think what I did, but I did something upstairs toward the improvement of the upstairs. In October, we got the linoleum laid upstairs and I got curtains hung in all the room and the upstairs was really completed as to walls and floors and stuff. Don’t care much to record my work – just the enjoyable times – er, something. These last few months there were plenty of them.

So, on the 23rd of October, Father and I started for Lincoln. We stopped at Touhy at Fr. Beranak’s en route. We spent the evening and night there. Had a pleasant visit. I always enjoy going to Touhy. After the masses and breakfast, we went to Lincoln to Fr. Joe’s. We had lunch (made by the Padre) then we got Fr. Ed’s business letter out and we all went shopping. I sorta looked around at the coats and landed up with a pair of nylon pink anklets and that’s all! Didn’t have enough time for buying a coat anyway.

The Padres both went to supper at the orphanage since they had 40 hours there and since I couldn’t get in touch with Betty Sundett, I spent the evening alone. Made myself supper and then listened to the radio and read. At 8:30, Fathers Ed and Joe came back and we saw a marvelous picture “Wilson.” Enjoyed it so very much! Fr. and I went home the same evening at night.

On the 28th of Oct. – a Saturday night, Mr. and Mrs. Lisko picked me up to take me to Loretta’s wedding dance. Had a nice time. Got acquainted with a red-headed girl and danced with her. Who gets to same dance but Morris Ienn from Lincoln. So-o! “Hi Del! Gee! How come you’s here and how about the next dance?” Almost all of it in one breath. He took me home at intermission since I wanted to get home early because of Sunday. He was very obliging. We made home in record time – 20 minutes – 15 miles from Shelby. We sat and talked for a while and Fr. came out and we all jabbered.

The next day was another big day – the hospital dedication, Sunday, October 29, 1944. Everything went wonderfully well. The Boys Town Choir sang the mass – that in itself was grand. Father Ed was privileged to take the Blessed Sacrament to the chapel and instead of the deacon handing the Blessed Sacrament to Father, the Bishop personally handed the Sacred Species to Him. Though Father Ed refused to be sub-deacon, the Bishop in his way, through this act, showed his appreciation for all Fr.’s efforts. For Father Ed was the first to take our Lord to His dwelling in the pagan town of Osceola, as also he was privileged to say the first mass in the chapel on Monday morning. To say Mass on the grounds where only 25 years ago Ku Klux Klan crosses were burned – sounds rather miraculous – and in its way, it really is. Pappa Ienn served this mass and Mamma Ienn and I were the only ones besides the sisters to attend this mass. It was very touching and something I shall long remember.

Back to Sunday and the entertaining part of the day. Morris took me to dinner, took pictures and showed me a nice afternoon till he had to leave for Lincoln. He picked a ride in the Bishop’s car with the Bishop and Lincoln priests. Did I just say “pick” – I meant got through his Daddy’s efforts. Got home tired and stuff and just had time to wash up and get ready for my date with Glenn.

We saw “Home in Indiana” – in technicolor and we both enjoyed this a lot. This was our last date together and he got on the serious side sorta and asked if he could wait for me, etc. is enough to say here. I told him I could never be happy in Nebraska – [Glenn] was pointing out all the good points of the farm he’s renting – irrigation and all and what a future it had. He said if he could hope for me to change my mind – well I tried to be definite and so its left here with the promise of a date when I get back for a vacation. (to change my mind? I doubt it. I don’t think it can be changed since I make up mind.) We have a bet on a box of candy – the best there is – to the one that gets “married” first. He kept saying he hoped he’d never have to pay that bet. The look in his eyes – glad I’m heading east!

On the 30th (October), which was Monday, Edwin Gryva took me to the dance – just cause it was my last few days here. Had a lot of fun – had a lot of dances. Even Martin was there and he really took me for a Polish twirl. Half the time my feet barely touched the floor. This was my last dance in Nebraska before pulling out for home.

On the 31st, I stayed home and definitely was “About time!”

November 1st (Wednesday) was a Holy Day and what a day it was. That evening, Clementina and Minnie Zelasney came over for a visit (so I thought). Since Minnie wasn’t around for a long time, I was showing her the accomplishments of the upstairs. John Kemp was visiting Father.

On our way back to the kitchen, I hear a car honk and I go out to the front door and then a lot of cars honk! Surprise! Just like that and there I am amazed and without words! Marcie Christiansen planned it and the choir and the 4H club were invited. It was a Hankie shower. Glenn was also invited. (hmm!) We had a wonderful time – we played games all evening – then had a swell lunch. Made me feel swell all over. On leaving, Glenn said he was honored to come. Gee: Everyone was swell – and the kids were too.

On Thursday, the 2nd, I cleaned the house up all over again. On Friday, Father and I went to Osceola, saw “Hail to the Conquering Hero” with Eddie Bracken.

On Saturday, the 4th, I went to Columbus and did I ever do the shopping. I bought my winter coat – an oxford grey mannish coat. I like it a lot. Also got a dark green wool slack suit, dark brown wool sweater and incidentals which, all in all, left me broke.

Sunday, the 5th, we were invited to dinner at the Kontor’s (supper, I mean, cause it was at six). Anyway, we had duck and trimmings here too – my favorite meal. Played cards and enjoyed myself a lot.

Now comes my last week at Pilzno –

Sunday, Nov 5 till today, the eleventh. Andy is 3 years old today too! Was sure we would be home by now! All this week I sorted my things, mended, and packed. I also had Fr.’s things to get ready for his vacation.

Monday the 6th: I spent the evening at home. Louis Lisko, Fr., John Kemp and I played “Buck.”

Tuesday, the 7th:went to show, saw “Step Lively” and “Candlelight in Algeria” (a British film which wasn’t bad)

Wednesday, the 8th: at Ienn’s – played “Buck” – Pappa and Mamma Ienn, Fr. and I. Only Pappa and Mamma were winning most of the time. Helen watched and got her homework done in between.

Thursday the 9th , at home.

Friday, the 10th, Fr. and I went to the show and saw “Sing, Neighbor, Sing” and “Gangsters Choice” at Columbus. And here, I am all up to date.

We did leave Sunday, November 12, 1944 for Chicago and got (t)here on Tuesday noon – the 14th of November. We stopped at Gryvas (George and Betty’s) Sunday night and left Monday noon. Had some tire trouble on the way but got it fixed up okay. Now I’m here to stay. (Rhymes!) [okay and stay]

\*\*\* End of Diary \*\*\*

Beginning of Love Letters

2854 Marmora Avenue – [this is father, Stanley & Martha Jaworowski’s residence.]

Chicago 34, Illinois

Saturday night, 11/26/44

Dear Glenn,

Hi! I hope you’re not too disappointed in me for not writing sooner – we left a week later than planned and since I’m here & I haven’t done anything much besides visiting with my sisters and their children. Of course, they are all as darling as can be – and even more so! I am so happy being with them. It’s too hard to describe the fun of just being will with them and also taking care of them.

I’ve seen Mary Louise twice since I’m here, a week ago Sunday. I met her in the “Loop” and we had a Chinese Dinner and then went to the movie and saw “An American Romana.” It’s the first movie I saw since we saw “Home in Indiana” together. Yesterday, my sister Esse went downtown with Father Ed & I stayed home alone with the children. Mary Louise had the afternoon off and she visited with me. We had a swell time just at home. Of course, little Delphine kept us entertained (or was it vice versa?)

Watcha doin’? I mean besides picking corn? Are you working very hard? Aw – don’t! What’s the news around the place? Gee, I don’t know when I’ll get a chance to drop all the people a card that I promised to write to. I’m just not in the letter writing mood out here. Maybe when I start living at home & working – then maybe I’ll get in the groove.

How’s your “Model A” been acting up since it didn’t have the extra load to carry? I bet its been humming ever since.

We had our first snow fall on Thanksgiving Day. It gave the day a very festive appearance and it was really a holiday at our family dinner. It’s been a long time since we were together for Thanksgiving.

Guess I’ll sign off now. Don’t forget to write when you have time!

Bye now –

Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Dec, 3, 1944*

*Dear Del,*

*Hello! Glad to hear from you. And that you arrived safely.*

*How do you like the city again, after being away for a while?*

*You left at a good time, “Del,” because we have received about six inches of [snow] on the 25th of Nov. It is rather cold also.*

*We got through picking corn just the day before it snowed, weren’t we lucky.*

*Now I can sleep a little longer in the morning and stay up and listen to the radio later in the evenings.*

*I plan on doing one of two things this winter, either work a couple of months in a war plant or take a short course at the college of Ag., on irrigation.*

*Have you met any good-looking sailors or Marines yet?*

*Paul leaves the 20th, just before Christmas for the Army, means I’ll have to put in a little more over-time.*

*I gave a speech at a Banquet in Stromsburg Dec. 1st on my 4-H experiences. You should have heard “modest” me.*

*I went to the show Sat. nite, seen ”San Fernando Valley” with Roy Rogers – good.*

*The other day when I started for town, my “Model A” wanted to go north, I can’t figure out why. I suppose it wants to see for sure if you have left us.*

*There’s been two dances recently, I went to one in Duncan.*

*Please tell Mary Louise and “little Delphine” “Hello.” I’ve seen her picture.*

*Hoping to (hear) from a certain girl in Chicago soon.*

*With Luck,*

*“Glenn”*

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12/12/44

Dear Glenn,

How’s everything out in Nebraska? We’ve been having snow this week and it really looks Xmasy out!

I suppose you are having a sort of vacation now you’re all through corn picking. Well, I don’t know – there’s always something doing out on the farm.

I miss all the fresh air; out here – it could be fresher. Of course, it’s different in the neighborhood, but the block where I work, is pretty smoky. Yep, I almost forgot to tell you that I’m working. Went job hunting the day after my brother left town. Landed one the same day and was sent to the Doc’s for a physical checkup: I’m working at Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Co. It’s a chain store with stores all over the States. [better known as A&P and the world’s largest retailer, like Walmart] I am working at the General Offices in Chicago. I work in an office called the “traffic department.” I make entries of carloads of the different food stuff; then later when these carloads arrive; when they are released; when these bills are filled. I have my own desk and its really quite interesting work. I was surprised to get this position without having experience. However, I did write in my application that I took care of my brother’s correspondence and helped balance his church books. I also wrote he was a clergyman. Every office has a different system anyway, so I didn’t think writing this would hurt my chances, since we were requested to fill out our religion on this application, too. I am quite pleased with this break since it has nice possibilities for advancement.

I should have liked hearing your “modest” speech. I bet it was pretty swell!

As for meeting any Sailor or Marines – the answer is no. Of course, if I wanted to be a pick-up, I suppose could meet plenty of them. I do hope I’m better than that. I haven’t called any of my girlfriends as yet, cause I’ve been busy just being with the family. Trying to get settled with the Holidays coming on is plenty hard. I’ve promised to trim Dad’s tree and also my sis Esse’s tree! I have been doing something like that.

What are you going to do this winter? Have you, as yet, decided?

Well, I’ll have to say “Bye” for now – and hang by “close” on this line!

“Del”

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Dec. 20, 1944*

*Dear Del,*

*Well, how are you to-day? Hope you are making good with your new work & hope you like it.*

*How does it feel to have a big position, as you have got?*

*Well, I was back on my old job of picking corn last week, helping a neighbor finish up, he was or is a swell guy or I wouldn’t of went.*

*It has been rather nice the last week and the snow has all melted. So, it looks like we won’t have a white Christmas.*

*We had our Christmas early this year, being Paul had to leave for the Army.*

*I seen “Man to Frisco” Saturday, it was a very good picture.*

*Are you a lucky girl, you can see pictures about two months before they get here.*

*We are having Study Clubs in our parish now, They will last for eight weeks or eight lessons.*

*Please excuse me for now, will write more next time, I hope. Write when you have time, will you? Merry Christmas – Happy New Year*

*Good-Bye,*

*Glenn*

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**Del sends Glenn a Christmas card on Dec. 21, 1944**

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2854 Marmora Avenue

Chicago 34, Illinois

Wednesday night, December 27, 1944

Dear Glenn,

I don’t know just how to begin – but thanks ever so much for the Xmas gift of candy! It was very, very sweet of you and it made me feel that I wasn’t forgotten. Besides – it’s delicious and you must know what a sweet tooth I have! Believe me, when I say it helped chase some blues away. Though I was extremely happy Xmas Eve & day – there was a feeling that I was missing out on something in Nebraska. Mostly I missed singing at the Midnight Mass and staying up all night till Xmas day. Yet, seeing my nieces and nephews enjoy the thrills of their gifts made up for a lot of that I was missing. I spent Saturday and Sunday at Esse’s & Xmas Day at Dad’s. I wanted badly to go to the Midnight Mass because there I find so much of Xmas! There were six blocks to walk to church but that wasn’t anything – just the walking alone – was what I missed. (You would have been a nice escape, you know!). There were quite a few people walking in the same direction so naturally I wasn’t afraid.

May I describe or let you picture the scene? At 11:45 a procession of young boys dressed in the traditional attire of choristers walked down the middle of the church aisle humming “Silent Night.” Angel voices sang these lovely carols at the crib – honestly, their high clear boyish voices were out of this world. They also sang the high mass – I couldn’t get over the beauty their voices lended to the occasion. Simple and sweet – and so like angels. After mass, it was snowing! And that made everything feel like Xmas.

It was hard to go back to work after the long holiday. We had a Xmas party from work at the Lion’s Club. It was an afternoon affair for which we got the afternoon off with pay. There was also a Santa who had a grab bag & we all got little gifts. I got a box of bath powder. Friday, we worked & then no work until yesterday, Tuesday. Things are clearing up for me and I find what was very difficult before – rather easy. Another couple of weeks & I’ll feel like an old timer at it.

My mind isn’t functioning very systematically tonight and I guess I’m not listing events as chronologically as I should but I hope you’ll overlook that – huh?

Glenn, be sweet and write a letter that’s a little longer – no, I’m not complaining as yet, but you wouldn’t want me to, would you? I’d like hearing all about what you are doing.

Yes, I’m a lucky girl about seeing the pictures soon – if I would go to see them. I saw a double feature with my step-mother a couple of weeks ago & that was the second time to the movies for me. Saw “Xmas Holidays” & a Sherlock Holmes picture. After being used to going every week – I’m slipping. But it seems like there’s always something else to do.

Right now, the something else is a bath and hop into bed cause its 10:30 & I’ll never get up in the morning.

Bye for now – take care of yourself and once again, thanks for being so thoughtful & sending me an Xmas gift! I hope your new year is Happy and filled with all the many joys your heart desires.

As ever,

“Del”

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2854 Marmora Ave

Chicago 34, Ill.

January 21, 1945

Dear Glenn,

Hello! How are you? Hope you missed hearing from me though I haven’t kept silent just to see if you did or not. I have been very busy this past week. I didn’t come home from Saturday till Thursday. My sis had a touch of the flu and I came to her place and helped her a bit in the evening. Guess it was pretty tough sledding for her. This left me with no time for letters. Thursday, I wrote to my brother and it was just a short letter so he’d know we were still all okay out here. This week end there was very seldom any letter writing time so here I am Sunday evening with some time left over for a short letter so that you won’t be disappointed (or am I flattering myself?).

Anyway, what goes out there? Had a nice letter from Ramona and she told me of her engagement to Leonard. I’m very happy for her. Guess Leonard should be congratulated on his good taste – huh?

I finally went to Sonja Henies Hollywood Ice Revue and it was something out of this world. It’s impossible to imagine such skating perfection – and the costumes were really breath-taking. Though we got first balcony seats, Loretta and I got stuck in a lousy place though it could have been much worse. Anyway, someday I’d like to sit up close and see what their faces look like.

The orchestra is playing “Home on the Range” and I am wondering how’s the ranches? Are you making out okay? I hope so. Not that I doubt it any. I imagine it was sorta on the lonely side batching [bachelor-ing] during the cold spell, or haven’t you been spending the nights at your farm? Fr. Ed and you ought to get together. For more reasons than one.

By the way, your mention of a mystery in the P.S. confuses me. Will you please tell me more so I can recall what it’s all about? Please?

Since you made a New Year’s resolution to write longer letters and since you broke it on the very day you made it, I feel very much like ending my letter right now too. Oh, guess I’ll tag along for another foray just to prove I don’t hold grudges.

Friday my wardrobe chest came in and so I moved all my clothes from my Dad’s closet into the chest, which is now in my room. Now I don’t have a picture of you for the door. Are you going to do something about it?? I have the nice fuzzy tail that you gave me from your car hanging on it. It just made out of fiber board or something a little stronger than plain cardboard. Spent a whole evening rearranging my things and make use of the space in my closet (or something). This will be all for now – guess I’ll be having my clothes on this line!

Bye now,

Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Jan. 26, 1945*

*Dear Del,*

*I sure did miss hearing from you, but was sure happy to hear from you, after waiting so long.*

*But I understand, Del, I know you must have been very busy with all that work.*

*We sure are having a swell winter so far. It has snowed several times but it always been warm with the sun shining every day after.*

*I was glad to hear that you took time off to see the Ice Revue, I know you enjoyed it. I read where the Ice Revue would take in about seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars in your city. Wouldn’t it be great if Fr. Ed could get the Ice Revue for a show in some nearby town, and take in as much as they are there, and built a big, beautiful cathedral, here in the country.*

*No, Del, I’m not delirious, it’s just a big dream which could never come true.*

*“Rainbow Island” is playing here Sunday.*

*No, I’m not “batching” yet, because I have all my livestock at home. It’ll probably be spring, when field work starts, before I start boiling water [cooking for myself].*

*You sure wasn’t wrong, when you said Fr. Ed and I should get together for more reasons than - . I’ll probably see him Sunday – as Fr. Pekalski has been called away, because his mother was very sick.*

*Charles has been sick in the hospital with an infectious arm. I went to him Sunday – I took the Sisters and him some ice cream for supper, it sure made them happy.*

*I was down for my Army Physical, but didn’t pass one eye test, otherwise the Doctors said I was all there. Leonard didn’t pass his Physical Exam, so I suppose Ramona and Leonard will get married and moved on his farm.*

*Paul is stationed at Camp Wolters, [Mineral Wells] Texas, he said the country was beautiful there and warm.*

*Hoping to hear from you more often, about your work and you & you & you. I guess you know what I mean.*

*Love, Glenn*

*P.S. If you don’t change your mind, I’ll send you a picture or so later – O-K?*

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2854 Marmora Avenue

Chicago 34, Illinois

February 18, 1945

Dear Glenn

Lovely Valentine and a lovely surprise you sent. Getting the best of my sweet tooth – huh? Must say a very special “Thank you” for the remembrance. Made me feel as if I wasn’t totally forgotten in Nebraska!

February 21, 1945

Hello –

Well, my intentions were good – but I must say, that’s all. I was at my sis Esse’s place & when she had the children to bed I decided to take a nap (at 8:30 in the evening) so she could get her letter to her husband finished without interruption. As it turns out the nap turned into an all-night affair – here it is Wednesday evening & I still haven’t written. It was impossible to write Monday night as I was told to go to bed if I didn’t want a bad cold. I was sniffling around & Dad said – too many late hours & so - ! On Tuesday’s and Thursday’s, I go to night school. I take comptometry [advanced adding machine] (to pick up some speed on my work at work) and then a two-hour sewing class. I got home from work at 25 to six, leave at six fifteen & start class at six forty-five. I enjoy classes a lot. Right now, I’m making a blouse & at the rate I’m going it’ll be awhile before its finished! But I am learning how to sew right along & its grand! Between going to church, seeing my girlfriends & going to school I have one evening to put aside for catching up on my mending & clothes & the week is almost gone. I spend my weekends either at Esse’s or my sis Lee at Maywood. They live in a suburban home (sis Lee and husband and two kiddies.) A week ago, I was there for the weekend & we baked cookies for Hank (my brother) or Rich (my brother-in-law). On Valentine, night Esse & I wrapped the packages. [both were serving in WWII overseas]

Nothing exciting going on, - except being home with Dad & my sisters. My nieces and nephews are adorable and make the weekends worthwhile. Did see a double feature movie with my girlfriend which I enjoyed especially, because of the lack of war being mentioned. “None but the Lonely Heart” (sad but good) and “And Then Tomorrow” with Alan Ladd – mmm it was good. So relaxing and enjoyable.

Tonight, my intentions were also good – I was going to get at my unanswered mail – do I have a stack of it! – but got at my diary (that I kept in Nebraska) and began reading it and enjoyed myself once again. It’s not too personal of a diary – I just mention facts which recall very pleasant memories. You were in my memories and we did so many nice things together! Member?

How is everything and everyone out there by now. It was certainly sad to hear of Leonard Lisko’s death. [died in Luxembourg, WWII]. I sat down and wrote the family a sympathy letter which was really something hard to do. I hope I shan’t ever have to write another letter of that type to anyone again.

Your brother is stationed at the same camp where my cousin “Rocky” was stationed. Rocky is now in Alaska. He’s a cousin (Jaworowski) from Philadelphia and I correspond with him once in a blue moon.

How’s the weather out there? It’s rained all day today. Hope it clears up soon. We are busy at work – more so than usual since the end of the fiscal year is at hand. The company closes their books now. I guess all places of business do. The year is divided into four quarters “March, April and May” 1st quarter; “June, July and August” 2nd quarter; - “September, October and November” 3rd quarter and “December, January and February” are 4th quarter. This is the last quarter & so naturally there is more to do. I worked all day last Saturday. I work half days on other Saturdays. I seem to understand what it’s all about now. Wish you could have heard a phone conversation I had today – you would approve I’m sure.

The gentleman with whom I did car loads out with every day – he’s about 45 – looks it and is rather fatherly. He knows all about me, that is as to where I’m from & stuff. He started talking about how wonderful the country is, etc. and how silly I was to leave it. Well, it was a 15-minute conversation & his ideas did not agree with mine too well – cause I told him he sounded just like my brother when he talked like that. Though I know everything about the country is true – there are plenty of points he can’t see because he’s never been there. He sees the farms through pink colored glasses. Who am I to shatter his dreams? Anyway, his fatherly advice was “not to forget the country” & not pick up some punk out here & then support him for the rest of my life. Two sides to everything; though “who” I marry and “when” is for my heart to decide & not my mind. Well - anyway, that was one way of “killing company time.” It’s easy to get away with on the phone since I use it often enough every day. He’s a nice old goat even with his ideas.

I began answering your letter & came to the part when you said “hoping to hear from you more often, about your work, and you” & this incident came to my mind, so had to tell you.

How soon do you think Leonard and Ramona are getting married? Had a nice letter in early January from Romana telling me of their engagement.

Why should I change my mind about what, to get a picture of you? If I don’t get one soon I’ll just ask you to return mine. Scared? Ya better be! It’s something you promised & undoubtedly, you’re used to keeping promises.

As Ever, Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Feb 27, 1945*

*Dear Del: -*

*I sure was glad to get your letter, it kinda brightened the day for me after not hearing from you for so long a time, anyway, that nice long letter you wrote was “priceless,” as it sure is lonesome around here since you left Saint Mary’s.*

*We sure were having swell weather here until Sunday morning when it snowed about four inches. Well spring is just about a month away. Winter sure has been shorter with the nice weather we have been having, to me anyway.*

*Today I was in Osceola making out my farm plan for this year. After figuring out how many acres I will plant in corn, oats, etc. I then apply for my gas and fuel I will use in irrigating and in the tractor.*

*We are having baby chicks now, four hundred new Hampshire reds, they sure are nice. Last year we had fried chicken in June.*

*We have Lenten evening devotions at Saint Andrews 3 times a week, the roads are better than last winter, so we don’t have no trouble getting there.*

*I don’t know Del, when Ramona will get married, although I’ve talked to her several times, she did say she received a nice letter from you, also saying that you were really swell, I agree with her 100 per-cent.*

*I do keep all my promises, or make a desperate try to, Del, I do have some old pictures only, so please be patient, Del, and I’ll send you an up-to-date picture in the near future.*

*Thursday nite the County Agent wants me to help him, in showing a film to 4-H boys and girls at M.E. Church*

*What’s your favorite tune, Del, since you left? I kind of like, “Don’t Fence Me In,” do you?*

*“Since You Went Away,” a war picture, played in Osceola last week.*

*I always have my small radio by my bed before I go to sleep. I generally listen to it as late as 11:30 or 12:00 or till I get sleepy. I get lots of swell music from WGN. I wonder where that it is, Del? [WGN is from Chicago!]*

*Well, hoping to hear about you, from you soon, as I really look forward to that next letter.*

*Glenn*

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2854 Marmora Avenue

Chicago 34, Illinois

March 9, 1945

Dear Glenn,

‘Bout time that I answer your letter or you’ll think badly of me. Its rather late to start writing a letter but you see it’s this way – after supper I went & layed down for a nap – 6:3 – till 9:30 I napped. So I had to take my bath and then decided to wash my hair for the week end. So its late but I want my hair to dry & this is one way of getting it done.

So you listen to WGN and you don’t know where it’s at! Now you are teasing. Its in the best city there is – Chicago! Ha! Ha! Well, pretty much the best city anyway.

You have all your farm plans made for the year, huh? Sounds like someone will be busy, once spring sets in. I’ll have to see the baby chicks as they are so darn cute when they’re tiny. I’ll be thinking of you eating the fryers in June! Makes my mouth water. The very mention of meat makes my mouth water. Guess I’ll have to go back to Nebraska to eat again? Boy, with the point system its darn hard managing to get meat & butter at the same time. The kind of meat you can get for a few points is -- . Here I go again – raving about something silly. Guess it’s okay, if the war will ever end!

I’m going downtown Monday afternoon since I have an appointment with the Red Cross Blood Bank. At least I’ll find out if they’ll take my blood. It’s something I have been wanting to do for just ages but didn’t get around to calling. So today I called up from work and I’ve got a date with a needle!

Last Tuesday, little Delphine was three (3) years old so I missed classes to be at her birthday party. Her godfather & his wife were there too. My sisters-in-law were over the night before so birthday night wasn’t too crowded and consequently we had a lot of fun. John (the godfather) happened to spy an old mouth organ and started to play it. He was really good at it too. So, then Sis, Ceil & I all sang & pretty soon John would harmonize instead of play & we had a great time singing real, real old songs. They left after two and it was three when I went to bed. Boy was I sleepy at work. Didn’t help matters any by going to sleep at 1 the next night. Had my girlfriend over for supper & she left about twelve. Thursday night was school & I couldn’t miss again so I went. Managed to be in bed by 11:30 so now you can see how I can take a four-hour nap. Besides I work all day this Saturday & that leaves me practically no weekend to speak of!

Did you see “Since You Went Away”? It was a wonderful movie. I have a lot of favorite songs – but at present – “My Dreams are Getting Better All the Time” tops them. Loved “Don’t Fence Me In” too! Gotta close for now cause its late.

Bye now,

Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Mar. 19, 1945*

*Dear Del,*

*Well, I hope this finds you well and happy.*

*By the time you get letter spring will be here.*

*It has been rather nice here, although we did receive a nice shower last week, hoping that you are having fair weather there also.*

*We have been getting our machinery ready for spring work the last few weeks. We are farming all of the land we did last year, but we will have to farm it with half the help we had last year. They have cancelled farm deferment for farm workers lately and now they are taking forty-three from our county.*

*Frank Lisko and Ray Schott leave for induction tomorrow, March 30th. Francis Urban also leaves for the Army. He got married last week, Fr. Stanley would not give them the sacraments. I guess the reason was, he owed thirty-five dollars in dues to the church and wouldn’t pay it and I imagine also the way he talked about Fr. He got married in Shelby by Fr. Kean Thursday, Mar 15th.*

*Fr. Ed came over for a while last Wednesday. He was going to Osceola when he stopped in.*

*I helped split wood for the furnace at our church last week, it sure was warm that day, and it seemed like it was unnecessary to do it, but it will be used when it is chilly though.*

*What did you do on St. Patrick’s Day?*

*Allan and I went to a show in Osceola, “Up In Arms” then after the show we went to Shelby, they had a St. Patrick’s Dance there. Carl Micek played, he also will play on Easter Nite in Shelby. We went to “Irish Eyes are Smiling” Sunday afternoon. Did you see this picture, Del? I really thought it was good, it was in technicolor and it was really pretty. Duncan can’t have no dances any more, not on Catholic grounds anyway. The bishop of the diocese made that ruling.*

*I was in Columbus last week attending an irrigation clinic. It was very educational and I gotta lot of profitable pointers there.*

*I hoping to hear from you Del,*

*As ever,*

*Glenn*

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2854 Marmora Avenue

Chicago 34, Illinois

March 26, 1945

Dear Glenn,

This will be but a few lines as I am snowed under with letters and don’t even have an evening where I feel I can write.

Went to lie down at seven & was awakened at ten to take a bath. That accomplished, I’d like to write you a line and wish you a Happy Easter. Hope the bunny lays a lot of Easter eggs by your door!

‘Scuse the stationary – am writing in bed and writing as its late. School tomorrow and church the rest of the week so there’s not much time for anything. We are going to Maywood for Easter, my Sis Esse and I.

Saint Pat’s day was another day – I worked all that day! And all day Saturday work isn’t too much fun. Guess I caught on to the work too well since I have overtime to put in. I told my boss today that I’d like not to work the day before Easter & he said if I kept up with my work I can have a holiday. So, I’ll have a holiday since he’s okay that way.

Didn’t see “When Irish Eyes are Smiling” but I did see – double feature a while back – “Something for the Boys” & “Girl Rich.” Both were just second rate. Didn’t enjoy them too much.

With no more dance in Duncan, what will they do on their picnics?

Got a new Easter Bonnet after I left the Blood Bank the other week. Also got a new pink blouse & navy-blue shoes. My hat is navy-blue with pink flowers. That is, what there is of this hat. It’s very chic and springy and I like it a lot.

Guess I’ll close now as it’s getting late & I won’t be nearly caught up on my sleep if I stay up too long.

Again – have a Happy Easter and have a special time at the Easter Dance for me too!

Bye now & write soon,

Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Apr 2, 1945*

*Dear Del: -*

*Well I hope this finds you not working too hard. Hope you had a swell Easter day and a swell time.*

*We went to 6:00 o’clock mass Easter morning, then had a family reunion at Grandad’s, it was also his 72nd birthday. Fr. Stanley was also with us for dinner.*

*In the evening, Martin, Charlie, and I went to see “Hollywood Canteen” in Columbus.*

*It was nice here Easter Day with the sun shining and it was really warm. It has really been nice the last two weeks.*

*We have been really busy since then too. We have our oats and barley planted and it will be up in a few days. Everything is greening up here and the grass is really green, and some fruit trees are in bloom.*

*Last winter, if you can remember Del, we were having a lot of winter. It was cloudy today and chilly with a few snow flurries flying for a while, so I didn’t do too much today.*

*Did you know that you were back at Saint Mary’s last week? Or somebody thought you were. Martin asked me if I knew that you came back, he said had he seen you with Fr. Ed. I told him, I didn’t think you came back for Easter, because you didn’t write that you were coming in your last letter, although Fr. Ed said that you may come, but he didn’t know for sure. But when I received you last letter, I knew you were spending Easter in Chicago.*

*Ray Schott got in the Navy and is taking his boot camp at Great Lakes.*

*Paul is on maneuvers for the next two weeks and will be home soon after.*

*Allan leaves for his induction Apr. 24th so it will leave Dad and I to farm 800 acres.*

*Dad and I are in partnership with the livestock and share our machinery and exchange help. We will hire another man if possible. So, I won’t do too much “baching” this year.*

*The war news is getting better all the time, isn’t it.*

*Well, this is all the news I can think of now, hoping to hear from you soon.*

*As ever,*

*Glenn*

*P.S. I sure wish I could have seen you in that pretty Easter Bonnet – honest I do because, Del, I’ve never seen you with a hat on. “Good nite.”*

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2854 Marmora Avenue

Chicago 34, Illinois

April 2nd, 1945

Dear Glenn,

I received your box of candy today since I wasn’t home over the Easter weekend. Your spoiling me, you know, remembering me so grandly. Thanks so much! The candy is simply super! If I am not careful I’ll start gaining weight – but definitely – sorta pleasingly plump or something! I’m not worried yet – and my sweet tooth sends an extra special “thank you” too! We are definitely enjoying it.

Sorta on the sleepy side tonight – took a nap from 6:30 to 10 this evening. Have had my bath now & it’s after eleven. Feel like I could do a lot more sleeping. This has been my night for catching up on sleep – try doing that once a week and succeed most of the time. This isn’t my letter writing night though – haven’t had one of those for just ages. Seems like I’m neglecting everyone these days. However, I couldn’t pass up this evening without a line to you to tell you “thanx” – cause its school Tuesday and Thursday & Wed I’m going to a show with my girlfriends. Friday is too far away to have you wondering if I received your package.

Say hello to someone I know – like my brother. He still hasn’t answered my couple of letters so I still don’t know when & how I’ll take my vacation. Though it will be in Nebraska – and that’s for sure.

Since I just wrote, I haven’t much more to write about. Did the Easter Bunny bring you a lot of eggs, cause you were good? Or didn’t he? My sis Esse, her two children & I all went to Maywood to my sis Lee’s place for the weekend. We had a pretty swell holiday out of the deal. Esse & I took the four kids out for their air Sunday & I bet we walked two miles (round trip) – at least. We went to the outskirts of the town to a florist and bought my sis a geranium plant – was she tickled. It was just a small plant but I guess it was because we surprised her so. When we came back to Esse’s last night, she received two corsages – one for her & one for her daughter Baby Del. Delphine’s flowers were pink carnations & Esse’s were two baby orchids – which were just gorgeous. Today I came home and found a box of candy from you, so the Easter spirit of surprise lasted a long time – thanx to you!

I was going to finish on the other page but here I am – like a bad penny that you can’t get rid of.

I hope you had a very nice Easter Day too! And now I must close & go to slumber land like all good girls do!

Bye now,

Del

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2854 Marmora Avenue

Chicago 34, Illinois

April 23, 1945

Dear Glenn,

It’s ages since I heard from you so I guess it must be my turn to write. Am I correct?

Not that I have very much to write about but then there are a few things you might be interested in.

First of all, I’ll be coming in for my vacation the week end of the 16th of June. Guess I miss Father Ed pretty much – a lot more than I realized.

Outside of getting a definite date for my vacation, I can’t think of anything too exciting that’s happened. Seems like once you get the hang of work, it’s not exciting though it is interesting.

I’ve seen a few good movies a while ago. “Our Hearts Were Young & Gay” & “Bowing to Broadway.” Also saw “Hollywood Canteen” right after Easter sometime. Seems like the movies at the local theatre come up about the same time as they do at Columbus. Haven’t been splurging & seeing the movies downtown. Gee, when one goes to the Loop, besides waiting in line for at least a half hour, one also has to pay almost double. I’m planning on a move downtown right after going to the Blood Bank on May 12th. Last time I went, I had my Easter shopping to do – this time I’ll save money and go to the show. (ha! ha!)

We had a nice Easter with my sister at Maywood – now wait, guess I told you that in my last letter as we both wrote letters the same evening – Easter Monday.

This week, I don’t have classes – the public schools have “clean-up” week vacation & the night school enrollees got the same vacation. In a way its nice. I finished my blouse & now I cut out my skirt. It’s navy blue. If I make it like it looks on the pattern, it will be real cute. But that’s hard to say.

Went to the dance last night – our Company gave a Spring Frolic dance at the Grand Ballroom at the Stevens Hotel. The Stevens, is hyped as the largest hotel in the world. [The Stevens is now the Hilton Chicago bordering Grant Park downtown] (I’m quite sure I’m correct in that statement). The Ballroom was a very gorgeous place – and the floor – wow! Dance was over at 11:30 to keep up with the 12 o’clock curfew. They had a swell, clean cut floor show in the middle of the evening. I went to the dance with a group of girls. It was fun just seeing a grand place like that though of course it was not my idea of a really good time, to be unescorted at a dance. But there is a war on. There were some sailors that crashed the party but they were definitely just sailors on a “bend.” I preferred the company I came with. It’s nice having girl friends that are swell leaders and I enjoyed the dancing. My one little Polish girl that turned out to be fun. Didn’t know she was Polish till the band played a polka. (They must have played about four of them in the course of the evening.) Anyway, it was just cute the way she started to dance & I said I bet you and I speak the same language! [Del was bilingual Polish-English] We did and brother did we dance it too. She was – grand dancer all around!

Getting terribly sleepy so please excuse me for now. Write soon.

Bye now,

Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*May 1, 1945*

*Dear Del,*

*Well, I hope this finds you not working too hard.*

*I was glad to hear that you are coming for your vacation in June, because it will be swell to see you again.*

*Please excuse me Del for not writing sooner, because Allan left the 24th of April for the Army and Paul came home from Camp Wolters, Texas. Allan left a day before Paul came home, so they didn’t get to see each other. Paul has to be in Fort Meade, Maryland May 8th, so he’ll leave Friday May 5th, from there his outfit will leave for overseas duty.*

*The weather here has been cloudy and raining quite a lot. We have been getting a light shower every day or other day. The crops are really growing and getting green. It looks like we may have a swell small grain crop [wheat, oats] this year. Dad and I have been rather busy getting ready to plant corn next week, since generally both Allan and Paul helped us last spring. We have 250 acres of corn to plant and it will take us about two weeks to plant, if we have good weather.*

*Tomorrow we are having a State Veterinarian come out to take a blood test from our cattle to see if they’re free from the Bang’s diseases. The State does this service free to the farmers. Then we will take the herd to the pasture for the summer.*

*Yesterday we put up a small windmill in our garden.*

*I installed a radio in my car this week, Del, I’m becoming a better mechanic every day, I didn’t think I could do it alone.*

*I have thirty-five little pigs now to take care of, they’re Spotted Polands and they sure are nice.*

*I got to see “Hollywood Canteen” Easter Sunday too, Del, in Columbus. I also went and seen “Wing-Victory” there the following Sunday. Martin and I went last Sunday to Columbus to see “Thunder Head,” it was really a swell picture. It was a story about a white stallion. It was a sequel to “Home in Indiana.” Remember, I think that was the last picture we seen together. I want to see it again when it comes to Osceola this month if I’m not too busy.*

*I got a card from Ray Schott today, he’s taking boot camp at the Great Lakes [Illinois]. He says he sure misses the farm and said he will get a furlough around the last part of May.*

*That’s all for now, hope to see you on your furlough but before then,*

*Please write soon*

*Glenn*

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**[WORLD WAR II in Europe ended with VE-DAY ON MAY 8, 1945]**

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*May 27, 1945*

*Dear Del,*

*Well, how is everything in Chicago?*

*Gee, I haven’t heard from you for almost a month, why don’t you write?*

*I’ve been looking forward to hearing from you a long time, although I know your busy, so I can understand, but “please” write once in a while, won’t you Del?*

*We have been planting corn the last two weeks, and still have a few days left. We have been receiving a lot of rain this month, which has delayed field work.*

*How are you making out in your work? I hope you have been promoted in your work, because if you have, you really whole-heartedly deserve it.*

*Are you having a nice spring in Chicago? Everything is really nice and green around her, after all the nice moisture we have received this spring.*

*Paul has been transferred back to California from Maryland because of the European war being over. It was really swell to hear that the Germans surrendered, wasn’t it? We had a Victory Mass said in Saint Andrews the following Sunday. Was there a lot of celebrating in Chicago on V-E day?*

*Ray Schott and Frankie Lisko are home on furlough from their boot training. John Liskovec, a neighbor boy living a half mile north of us, was killed on Luzon Island last week. John and Leonard Lisko enter the Army at the same time.*

*We were to have had our school picnic today, but it rained. We had our fried chicken at home anyway and enjoyed it, wish you could have been here also with us.*

*Are you still coming for your vacation in June, Del?*

*Francis Urban is having his wedding dance May 29th in Shelby.*

*Charles is helping us on the farm this spring.*

*Well, hoping to hear from you soon.*

*Delphine – “stay happy.”*

*Glenn*

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[2854 Marmora Avenue]

Chicago 34, Illinois

May 27, 1945

Dear Glenn,

*“Gonna take a sentimental journey,*

*Gonna set my heart at ease.*

*Gonna take a sentimental journey,*

*To renew old memories.*

*Got my bag and got my reservations,*

*Saved each dime I could afford.”*

[#1 song after the war ended, sung by Doris Day and Les Brown orchestra]

Why, hi! The song fit in so nicely that I just had to jot it down.

Am planning my journey a few days earlier than I said before. I’ll put in my last day of work on the twelfth of June & any time after that I’ll be heading West for a week. Though I’m leaving work, I still get one week’s vacation paid. My Nurses Training starts on the 25th of June. Yup, I’ll be getting my new title of Cadet Nurse round about then too! It’s just a wonderful feeling cause it’s doing something I really always wanted to do – nursing. I shall have 3 months of college at Saint Xavier College for Women & the rest of the 2 ½ years will be at “Mercy Hospital.” The stipend, received each month, is rather small but I guess it’ll be worth it. I’m so thrilled & happy about it all! I’ve been going to the dentist & getting an awful large sum of work done there (+ the bill!!!). Also had my physical at the Doc’s & have started to get my series of immunization shots. I’ll have an evening a week devoted to doing these! I’m so busy that it’s really an effort to write anyone a letter these days. So, I’m sure you’ll understand that its hard writing often. I think often about the letter I should write but to think about it is one thing & to do it is another.

I don’t even recall if I told you that I saw “Keys of the Kingdom.” I enjoyed it so very, very much. It was a super picture. Did you see it?

But with the spring on, you’ve really been busy. It’s been raining here so much that when we had a few sunny days last week, they were unbelievable. Really – never saw so much rain for such a long spell for just ages. Hope you are getting enough of it out there too.

We’re having a party this last day of school – (night school). Just a few of the classes are getting together. I suppose I’ll have a nice time though I am not looking forward to any extra special time.

Father Ed is looking forward to my coming visit. I do suppose he’ll have it all planned out as to what he wants to do. My sis Esse & her two children are planning on coming out for the summer. Guess we will all start out together though I’ll be coming back in a week. One week is such a short time. Boy & do I need a week to just relax in!

This letter is getting pointless with idle chatter. Can hear you saying to yourself – well, how soon you closin’ up. Answer: Right now!

Bye now – and I’ll be seeing you in a couple of weeks!

As ever,

Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*June 4, 1945*

*Dear Del: -*

*I received your letter this morning and glad to hear from you.*

*It seems the more two people write, the closer they seem to be, don’t you have the same feeling, Del?*

*Today it was cloudy, and really chilly for June weather. I sure hope it warms up before you come or you will really freeze, well maybe it isn’t quite that bad.*

*Yesterday (Sunday) Charles and I went to see “Bring on the Girls” in Osceola, with Eddie Brachen and Sunny Tufts and it was in technicolor, it was good.*

*“Keys of the Kingdom” is coming to Osceola next week, you said it was good, so I think I’ll go and see it.*

*Ray Schott and I went to a wedding dance in Columbus last week, I had free passes to this dance. One of my first cousins married a Staff Sergeant in the Air Forces. Ray only had a seven day leave then he reported back to the Great Lakes.*

*We still are planting corn here, it has rained enough to delay planning two weeks here, we have about a hundred acres yet to plant.*

*Today Martin came over and helped me vaccinate pigs against cholera, while Dad went to Omaha to get a combine. The wheat and oats are sure looking good around here compared to other places. So, I guess we got a lot to be thankful for.*

*Sure was glad to hear that you’re going to take up Nursing. I know it has been your ambition and I know you’ll make a swell nurse, because when a person works as hard as you do, you deserve nothing but the best of everything.*

*Well, I’ll be looking forward for an answer and good luck & a safe trip.*

*As ever,*

*Glenn*

*P.S. Thank you for writing, even if it was so late in the evening. Thanks again “Del”*

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[2854 Marmora Avenue

Chicago 34, Illinois]

Memorial Night

5/30/45

Dear Glenn,

Not a letter – just a note – to say “Thank You” for the next extra letter. It was quite coincidental that we should both write on the same evenings.

Same old story, Glenn, I’m awfully sleepy. I should send you the calendar I have marked up with what I’ll be doing till I get to Nebraska.

The rest – you know all about since I just wrote you Monday. It will be nice coming home for a change – it’ll be a long time till I get another such vacation. Oh me, all I can do is think of how wonderful it will be to “sleep” away during my vacation. Don’t worry, that just a dream – I’ll probably need another vacation to get over that one week.

I would undoubtedly have you disbelieving me if I told you it’s one a.m. Such hours! But darn it, it’s the time – on the dot. What have I been doing? Well, if I say I’ve been at Esse’s, it is explanation enough. I always find it hard to get to bed early there. However, I had little Del downstairs this late afternoon and early evening – got our train tickets, etc. We both enjoyed the little trip together a lot. You should see her – she’s a ball. But then, look who’s her God-mother!

Nuff for now, - ‘Night

Del

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Mercy School of Nursing

2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Illinois

June 30, 1945

Dear Glenn,

Meet Cadet Nurse Delphine Genevieve Jaworowski! Phew! I wrote my full name so very many times the first day at college that I was actually seeing things! A whole week has past now and I can honestly say it’s been grand. I feel like I have something wonderful within my grasp. Time flies so quickly that I know not where it goes. Gee, I only get 6½ to 7 hours of sleep unless I can a nap in-between someplace.

My daily schedule is this:

1. 5:30 AM – Get up and go to 6 o’clock mass

2. Breakfast till seven

3. 7 AM to 8:30 AM – clean room, study (or sleep – but we’ve had assignments so its study)

4. 9:15 AM to 12:30 PM – we have a Biology III or Physiology class and from 1–3 we have an English Class

5. Street car ride back to Nurses Home

6. 15 till 4 PM we get back & kill a little time.

7. Supper is served from 4:30 PM to 6 PM.

8. Lights go out 10:30 PM.

There are studies to do, bath to take & then generally getting acquainted. We seem to blend with company most of the time and then have to go to the “Rumpus Room” and fool around for a half hour. The schedule isn’t the same because we do our own washing & ironing of personal clothes – we went shopping one afternoon – walked to the lake front another afternoon & so what time we do have, we would like to study in. We get about three hours of home studying to do each day and its rugged!

Mass is voluntary so there are only a few of us that go. My roommate & I haven’t missed yet and its pretty wonderful going to mass every day. One starts the day off right and that’s, after all, the main thing.

I can go home every weekend for the first three months since during the first three months we go to Saint Xavier College (for women). [It is a couple of miles south and west of Mercy Hospital, but is also run by the Sisters of Mercy. It is now Saint Xavier University. Del lived in the Nurses Home at Mercy Hospital, and commuted to Saint Xavier for basic classes.] It’s quite a classy joint! After that we will get floor duty for certain hours of each day along with our classes. That’s when we get our uniforms and when one will really feel like a nurse. Right now, I just feel like a college student though living at the nurse’s home gives me a feeling of the hospital. The dining room is in the hospital & we go through a tunnel to get from one building to the next. This tunnel, however, has all sorts of pipes and things in it since the institution here runs its own, lighting current & heating system.

Everything & everyone is so strange and new. The girls are really swell & just a lot of fun. My roommate’s name is Rosemary. She’s a cute girl. Blonde – 5 ft 2 in & blue eyes. She is 21. She worked in an office before & doesn’t know how to do a lot of things. She isn’t lazy though because she does these odd jobs willingly & tries to catch on. I did her ironing this weekend, since she went home. Next week she’s going to learn how herself. I didn’t go home since I wanted to catch up on my letters & studies. So far, I have to start studying since I’ve written a few letters.

Tomorrow we’re going on the beach & I hope to get a start of a tan. I need some sunlight badly since we’re in all day every day. There are six of us girls going and it will be fun.

Glenn, do you remember that promise you made about a half a year ago? You haven’t kept it. I still don’t have your picture – and it would look nice in my room. Do you realize I don’t even have a snapshot of you? Well, just concentrate on the picture at least.

Gee, I’ll have to close for now. Not that I haven’t anything to say, but it’s about all the time I have left to say it in!

Bye for now – try not to work too much. I know it will be a tough summer for you. Bye now.

As ever,

Del

My address:

Cadet Nurse Delphine Jaworowski

Mercy School of Nursing

2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Illinois

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**[WORLD WAR II ended completely with V-J DAY ON September 2, 1945]**

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2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Illinois

October 18, 1945

Dear Glenn,

I must be getting “silly” for my old age. I shouldn’t be writing any letter this week, its mid-terms this week. Had two tests this morning – Nursing Arts & Religion-Philosophy. Tomorrow I have two really tough tests – Chemistry and Anatomy. I should be studying but I only have about 20 minutes before I have to get ready for my floor duty & so I thought I’d write you a line or two.

You should see the position I’m in – I’m relaxing at the same time, so you can use your imagination.

Did I tell you that I’m planning on coming to Father Ed’s for Xmas? I don’t have any special dates for the vacation as yet but I’ll be in Nebraska around Xmas. Nice, huh? I plan on catching up on a lot of sleep that I have been losing that I have been losing since I’ve been here. But it will be nice to see the place again – but mostly my brother. I miss him a lot – more that I dare to admit. If I did admit it, I’d probably be running in some weekend & I can’t afford to do that financially or otherwise. It’s bad enough keeping up with the studies when you attend evening class. This place is really tough. I can’t keep up at this pace forever. If I ever get through my Anatomy & Chemistry courses, I’ll have reason to celebrate.

If I sound lonesome or something, it’s just because these old tests really get me down. One of these days I’ll get some glasses – maybe that’ll help the headaches too much studying gives me.

One of my favorite songs these days is “I’ll Buy That Dream.” It’s really cute.

Will close now – times a running over so –

Bye now,

Del

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2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Illinois

November 24, 1945

Saturday Night

Dear Glenn,

Thank you for the lovely surprise – it was awfully sweet of you to think of me during Thanksgiving season. Mary, at the desk, saw me coming off duty yesterday noon and she told me I have a package! “Me?” She said yes, and from a boy. Well! We had to open it right there and then. Quite an excitement. My friends all thought you were real sweet. I think so too!

They’re playing “White Christmas” over the radio and it reminds me that I won’t be in Nebraska for Xmas. We will most probably be “capped” for Xmas and thus we’ll be useful. I was rather discouraged when Sister told us of her change of plans. Maybe she’ll be enough of a woman to change her mind again. The chances are plenty slim though.

We haven’t had classes Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. So we worked eight hours a day on the floor. We didn’t work straight hours though. Today was my day off and I visited my Sis. Her husband has been home a couple of weeks now. They are so wonderfully happy. Tomorrow, Sunday, I get up at 5:30 to go to six o’clock mass and then I work from seven until twelve. I have the afternoon free and then I work from 6 PM till 9 PM The thing is, one never gets off till almost 10 PM on that shift. Monday, I have a wonderful test coming up in Anatomy and as yet I haven’t studied my material for it. Oh, Joy! I can see what my afternoon off will be like tomorrow. More studies!

We are progressing in our Nursing Arts and I can give both enemas and hypodermic shots to patients who require these medications. When we give our first hypo shots to each other in the classroom, I got my equipment all set up perfectly but when it came to actually putting that long needle in my roommate’s arm, I just sort of froze and I told Sister, I just can’t. Well she held my hand and the needle went in. Since this, I’ve given quite a few injections but I have a real shaky sensation after its all over.

Well, how are you? I hope fine. Have you seen any movies lately? It’s been months since I went to a movie. The closest theaters are downtown and they all charge $1.00 admission and you don’t see a double feature either. We don’t have too much time for movies anyway.

I haven’t been out anywhere very much. I had to buy a new winter coat since the one I bought last year I couldn’t find anywhere. I looked all over at cleaners and places, but no soap. The coat I bought is a forest green chesterfield. I like it a lot. I have yet to buy a black purse and hat to go with it yet. Last Saturday night eight or so girls went to the U.S.O. since we don’t have to wear uniforms to go anymore. They are real nice. – lots of nice food and dancing. We all left at eleven thirty and were back by midnight. That’s the latest we can come in. We girls have a lot of fun when we go out together but the times are few and far between.

Looks like it’s about the end and so I’ll be ending! Thanks again for your sweet thoughtfulness – it was lush! Bye for now.

As ever,

Del

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2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Illinois

December 18, 1945

Dear Glenn,

Tonight, I received my “cap” – a recognition of my ability to make a good nurse – and the end of my probationary days. Happy night it was too. It was really very nice – the ceremonies and all of it – I’ve been so utterly happy!

I should be in bed by now but I thought I’d drop you a line and let you know about the big day! Our Xmas Holidays started tonight too – one week of work on the floor and one week of vacation at home! Isn’t that a pretty wonderful set up? I’ll be leaving either Xmas night of the 26th and then I’ll be in Nebraska for four days until New Year’s Eve. And do I ever need a vacation after the hectic days we’ve been having in ending a quarter of our work, in having a 3-day Retreat, and in preparation for this big event. Shop? I haven’t had enough of it since I don’t know when!

It’s midnight already – I just dropped Fr. Ed a line too and I have to be up at 5:30 tomorrow morning to get on duty. I’ll tell you all about this when I see you – doesn’t that sound nice?

G’d night for now and till I see you – keep your fingers crossed that no snow storms interfere with my vacation!

Bye for now,

Del

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2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Illinois

February 6, 1946

Hi there Butch:

Well, maybe I should get a letter written or you’ll think I’m mad! How’s everything coming along? By the way, I always meant to ask why you didn’t go to Omaha for the winter like you planned? How come? Did you find enough to do around? Me, I’m always working or else sleeping if I haven’t any studies to do.

My roommate Edna just left to get us a cake and candy bar so I don’t know how far I’ll get with this letter if this keeps up. I turned over a new leaf as of this morning but I don’t know how long it will last – I hope long enough to get this letter out to you anyway. I’m having conscience trouble again – always!

Haven’t accomplished much on my day’s off lately either except that I did get to meet Rosemary’s fiancé two weeks ago. He is a real swell fellow – in fact, he gave me a bracelet made in Persia just for a souvenir and because I was Rosemary’s roommate. Real nice of him. It’s made of a heavy shell-like stone with dainty hand-painted pictures on it. They showed me a real nice evening. I had a late leave and they drove me home just before twelve. You know, Cinderella-like nurses have to be in at twelve if they want to go out again sometime. Thing is, I want to be going out again and I don’t want my late leave cancelled for the next weekend, if I never use it – but there’s always a possibility that I may get enough ambition to go to a movie or something.

I went to Maywood to see my sis Lee. Her youngest baby boy’s seven months old. Tommy is sitting up by himself and is just precious and chubby. He just has a little round crease in his skin where his wrists should be! Mm – so sweet.

Had my refreshments and talked Edna into writing a letter so I can finish this one. My ambitions are slowly fading. I go on duty in another hour. We got out of class 45 minutes earlier so I did make use of the extra time – now didn’t I? Guess what kind of candy we had? Hershey’s with almonds! Very lush! Wanna bite? Too bad – cause its all gone now!

Another page but not even another thought to save my neck! If you can’t read this very well it’s because I am sitting in bed and writing – or why my bed spread gets so dirty.

When in doubt, talk about the weather – so here goes – about the weather. The sun comes popping in and out every once in a while, and the snow keeps blowing and snowing at a 30-mile wind rate. It’s a terrific wind. Yesterday, it was a real nice day – almost like spring – in fact it almost smelled like spring in the air!

The letter you sent me was very sweet in comparison to the one I sent you. Guess I shouldn’t get serious thoughts in my scatter-brains because they lead to no good. You should join the Irish clan with the blarney about that picture that you strung me. Don’t let that comment get you down – there are some people that call me “Kelly” for the sweet easy line I sling the patients. Thing is I don’t mean them as a line – I just say what I think. Of course, my long name hasn’t anything to do with people calling me by different names.

My roommate finished her two-page letter already and is talking a blue streak so I know the next best thing to do – and that is end it all! I mean letter writing for this afternoon.

Bye for now and (I don’t know what to write so I asked Edna what to write and she says write love and kisses because she wants to continue her conversation and you should be satisfied with that!)

Love and kisses,

Del

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2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Illinois

February 15, 1946

Dear Glenn,

I’m sleepy and tire – what a mood to be in but I just can’t go on indefinitely without thanking you for the “lush” Valentine. It was real sweet of you and it was rather a surprise after the mean letter you received from me after New Year’s. I shared my candy with some very appreciative nurses – it was real sweet of you, they thought, to feed the hungry lot of us! I like sharing my good fortune so I know you won’t mind my sharing your candy too!

Tomorrow is my day off. After my morning classes I will be free as a bird. Don’t think I’ll do too much besides get my affairs straightened out. These consist of doing my wash, cleaning my room and catching up on some sleep. I think I waste too much time sleeping but I can’t think of another more pleasing occupation!

The last movie I saw was the one at the Swan one Sat. night during Xmas week – do you U remember it? Now there I go, lying again – after writing down that statement I do remember going to a movie with my sis. It was a real old picture “Our Vines Leave Tender Grapes” or is it “Our Grapes Leave Tender Vines”. It always did confuse me. Anyway, it was a darling picture now that I recall.

It will be nice to have your brother home again. It’s too bad Allan can’t be coming home too. Then you would all be home together again.

Believe it or not, I am finally waking up again. Before I know it, I’ll be wide awake again and heaven only knows when I will quit my silly scribbling. Don’t give up – it might not last too long!

I know what started the movie topic a few paragraphs back. I wanted to say that I’m going to see “Bells of Saint Mary’s” or break my neck trying. Any day now, I may get enough ambition and dough to go downtown and splurge.

My roommate and I are going to splurge on an eight-dollar radio as soon as my brother-in-law remembers to order it and then with hopes that they do have it in stock. It’s pretty quiet and dull around here without a radio. The only time I hear some good songs is when we go to the drug-store and listen to the juke box. That proves expensive at times.

Now that I am wide awake I might even do my religion assignment for tomorrow so I’ll be signing off for now with many thanks for the candy.

Bye now

“Little Nurse”

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2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Illinois

March 3, 1946

Dear Glenn,

I was just shocked when I read the Register and saw that Saint Andrew’s Church burned down. It’s hard to believe – really it is. What bothered me the most was that the Blessed Sacrament wasn’t even saved. It certainly must be a hard fact to realize. Have you got your new pastor yet? Or is Father Stanley still there?

Gee, I think you’d drop me a line and tell me when such important things happen. I noticed, I got it in cold print (sense it chums, I’m just worn out and tired – I really realize that your probably busy – was anything at all saved?)

Letter won’t be long – I have gobs of things to do tonight – like get my case report finished for tomorrow and to take a bath and do some studying. Just think, another term is over after next week and I have my finals on the 9th and 13th. Say a little prayer that I get through, okay, will you?

I did see “Bells of Saint Mary’s” finally. Edna and I made a weekend of it last weekend. We both had Sunday off. Saturday night we went dancing at the U.S.O. We went to 12 o’clock mass Sunday in a parish church and then downtown. We really splurged and went to Gimbel’s for a dinner and then to the show. Back at the Nurse’s Home by 6:30 and we slept the evening away. We did get up about nine to do some studying but it really was a grand weekend.

What are you doing these days? Are you planting or sowing anything yet? Or hasn’t spring hit Nebraska? We have had some beautiful weather here – and I’ve been in during most of it!

This is all I have the energy for so will sign off. I worked Senior Rehab from 6:30 to 11:30 last night and from 10 AM to 7 PM today and boy, am I tired. Getting old and can’t take it. But gee, it’s really a great life and I love it even when I’m tired. My little ladies are just dolls!

Well as I warned before, I’m signing off – Bye now,

As ever

Del

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2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Illinois

April 5, 1946

Dear Glenn,

“Little Nurse” is pretty tired tonight even if she caught up on some sleep the last couple of days. However, it’s about time for another letter out Nebraska way.

Things keep happening all the time and maybe I’m even going to grow up one of these days – just might happen. I wouldn’t know what or where to begin telling you things – a week ago seems ages back and things that happen seem the same and yet different.

First off, I’m in another quarter of my school work and I’m not having as many classes either – only 19 as compared with last quarter’s 28 hours a week. So of course, we put more hours on the floor and I’m happy because it’s something I love. There, too, last Monday, April 1, I started work in another floor – in an all woman’s ward. The patients have all surgical cases and very interesting. We have a lot of fracture cases but also a lot of interesting operations going on too.

While I worked in Ward B, I really had reality to face one morning. My patient who had an infected vein and who was on the mend from all appearances (she even got up and walked a little and sat in her chair) died within a half hour. I finished my other patients and came back to administer Got Wet Dressings to her and told her to get back in bed while I get things ready. When I began giving the dressings, she wasn’t acting normally and perspiration just literally was rolling off her. I thought it was from the nausea she was feeling. However, I reported her to the Senior Nurse immediately. I held her hand a while since the nurse told me not to leave her alone. Things popped fast, Fr. was called, a Doc on the floor came in but it was of no avail – she died quickly. An embolism (a blood clot to you) blocked her heart and in such cases, nothing helps. I know now what a dying patient looks like! The same week another patient died only I wasn’t on when it happened.

Then a week ago tonight we had a terrible accident happen in the hospital. One of the younger students was fatally injured. It was one of those freak accidents altogether We have this junky automatic elevator and that it where it happened. The elevator door didn’t quite close and the other elevator began going up while she was getting in, causing her to stub her toe. Anyway, she slipped and was pinned in a five-inch wide space half way between floors. Her shoulder and head were on the first floor while part of her was pinned between the elevator floor and door; the rest of her was hanging down at the basement floor. She was in this position over 1½ hours before the firemen were able to release her after breaking of the parts of the elevator with acetylene torches. She felt the pain and knew the horror for about 15 minutes. Father was with her. Then the doctors administered narcotics and ether mask and she didn’t know too much more. She never regained consciousness and died a few hours later in surgery of internal injuries. The gloom that settled over this place was something – it felt like something happening to a member of one’s family. She was so young and beautiful – and so terribly innocent and sweet. It makes me feel so sad when I think of it.

Ward C where I work now is such a cheery place and the nun in charge is just a doll. Everything about her is just grand. She’s so particular about how things are done that it’s a joy working for her. Some places have a haphazard way of having their equipment around that you lose time just getting it ready. I just love working for her!

Since Father Ed wrote me a ten-page letter in January, he hasn’t written since so I know nothing of Nebraska news except through the Register and that’s very scarce of late so I appreciate the little news you do write. I so often wonder what my darling brother is doing – he’s always so busy and hating letter writing. When I got his letter in January I almost fell over – it was such a sweet – it was a long one – not much news – a lot of reminiscing and stuff.

We’ve been having just beautiful weather – I’ve walked to the lake one day and everything else seemed a million miles away. So peaceful and calm it was and a fish was jumping out of the water – guess he was hungry.

My former roommate is getting married the 1st of June and I’m to be her bridesmaid. We have our dresses picked out and they are simply darling. I do mean simply for it isn’t frilly, and I do mean darling cause its just adorable on. It’s pink.

Golly, golly, but I’m running a million tangents and I bet you can’t even keep up with me – but that’s the news – you asked and received things I hope will stay pretty much ordinary again until the wedding. I love other people’s weddings!

Bye now, Glenn, & remember to tell me how you are, will you?

Del

[written around the edge:] P.S. I didn’t even get around to asking you how you have been and doing what!

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Mercy School of Nursing

2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Illinois

April 12, 1946

Dear Glenn –

Just a note – I wrote such a long letter the other day that today I’ll just acknowledge your second letter. It was sweet of you to drop me a line.

I’d love to take you up on that deal and come out to go fishing. Sounds like loads of fun. We used to go with Dad when I was small and I just loved it then. Of course, its just a pipe dream – but a nice one. I’d love a vacation about now!

You’re going to be surprised but I’m going to finish right now.

Bye for now and sleep well, Night,

Del

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2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Illinois

May 16, 1946

Dear Glenn,

Long time – huh? Well – it’s like this. I don’t think you care to hear all my very good excuses so we’ll sort of skip them for a while.

Gee, I haven’t even written you about the candy. [birthday is April 8] It was real lush – besides that, we all enjoyed it. I must tell you the story about that. Some dumb postal clerk in Chicago mistook your two for a five and as a result your candy traveled around for a few days. I was most surprised the day it came.

In another week, we’ll be having final exams for the quarter again. The time just flies around here and I really can’t keep up with my studies. – got a lot of cramming to do!

I had a long religion paper to get out. When I finished, it was 8 type-written pages long and my typing is on the slow side so I put in a lot of hours in.

Besides all this, I am getting ready to be a bridesmaid for Rosemary’s wedding on June 1st. Right in the middle of my exams too! I’m going to need a lot of prayers or something to get me through! My bridesmaid dress is really lovely – Hubba Hubba.

Well, Glenn – I didn’t promise a very long letter – so guess I had better sign off as I haven’t much time now anyway.

As ever,

Del

[There is a two-year gap in these surviving letters, from May of 1946 until February of 1948. It appears that Del did not keep a lot of Glenn’s letters after getting to Mercy Nursing School – the last one was the above May 1946 one. These letters survive because Glenn kept them. Delphine kept a few from 1945, then started in keeping Glenn’s letters again in February of 1948, when they started getting more serious. Apparently, Glenn continued to write during that time, but the letters were not frequent nor were they saved. Plus, there was another boyfriend, mentioned in Glenn’s February 21 letter below.

1948

2517 Prairie Ave

Chicago 16, Ill.

February 19, 1948

Dear Glenn,

Hi! It’s been ages since I’ve written but letter writing doesn’t appeal to me much anymore – too lazy or tired or sumpthin’! But this letter is a must for I must thank you for the luscious Valentine – but more for remembering me. As to the question, “Plz be my Valentine,” perhaps the summertime will answer the question to some degree.

Went shopping today and among the various things I bought, I bought a new pen. Here’s hoping I don’t lose it or drop it, as has been my sad experience in the past and it’s a Scheaffers and I am enjoying writing with it. Yours is the first letter its written! I guess I’ll have to write to Father Ed soon – it usually takes a few letters on my part before I get an answer. Must be that I am developing patience in my old age! (Hand me my crutches!)

We’ve had a few days of lovely spring weather and then – like the wind, it has changed to zero. I don’t get to enjoy the spring weather – too busy working and resting! Today was my day off and so it had to be cold.

A few more months and I shall be finishing with the hard grind. It sounds heavenly and wonderful to look forward to! My finishing date is in the last week of June, of course. I will have a lot of reviewing to do to take the State Board Exams – either in July or October. Don’t know exactly when they’re offered, etc.

Must close for now and thank you again!

Sincerely, Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Feb. 21, 1948*

*Dear Del,*

*Well, how are you doing? You must be quite busy, because I haven’t heard from since I wrote a month ago, although I have hope that you probably will write soon.*

*What have you been doing lately, besides studying very hard?*

*I am still wondering if you received the candy I sent you? I’d be very disappointed if you hadn’t.*

*I was wondering and hope it doesn’t cause any hard feelings if I asked if you are still going steady with the fellow you wrote about in your last letter. At that, I felt very heart broken about it and thought it manly to forget about, but I haven’t. I still seriously think and know from the bottom of my heart, you’re the one I love more than anyone else I have ever met.*

*I’m positive we had a lot in common when we we’re together and I am confident we still have.*

*Since we were last together, I always went out dancing, parties, etc., had lots of fun, but it always seemed like something was missing: it was not having you around, a deep sensation in my heart always brought back and still does, the memories of the good times we had together. How fast time went by when we were together and how sweet, friendly and gracious you were every moment we were together.*

*It’s difficult to write how much I really care for you. At first it seemed easy to write, but as I try to express my deep sincere emotion for you, I suddenly seemed to become tied down inside and lose words in trying to express my love for you.*

*I’m sure you will understand how I feel toward you, if you will have confidence and faith in me.*

*From the first time I met you, you always had the loving personality and that sweet smile that went with it, which I knew could make me happy.*

*Since being apart for a while from you has not weakened, but strengthened my love for you in my heart. It’s the faith and hope I have in you and the prayers I have offered for our love, I guess.*

*Recently my prayers must have been answered, in wanting a better place to farm. Because a week ago, Frank Filipovicz sold their place to a party from Columbus. Out of forty applicants for the place, I was fortunate enough to rent it as long as I like, it really has as a swell house and it’s considered the nicest place for miles around.*

*I do very much hope and pray from the bottom of my heart that I will hear from you in the very nearest future with an open heart of love, and know how considerate you are, I know you will give a sincere answer of love in behalf of our happiness and faith in each other.*

*Yours in love,*

*Glenn*

*-----------*

Response to above letter was not saved, but it must have been encouraging.

*----------*

*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Mar. 2, 1948*

*Dear Del,*

*Well thanks for the swell letter you wrote, it was very interesting and it was wonderful to hear from you again.*

*It must have been a “gloom buster” I guess, because the days seem to be brighter now.*

*What have you been doing lately, besides studying studiously?*

*Well, the first sign of spring ended here also, but it was nice while it lasted, it has been raining and snowing here the past few days but our consolation has been, that it has not been very cold.*

*Columbus sure has their ups and downs. The Loup river has been flooding part of the town because of ice gorges in the river. I was in Columbus last Saturday, just as the water was rising and Pawnee Park had about four ft. of water covering it. Then later that evening about 150 people had to move out from the southern part of the city; it also washed out the highway south of the Loup bridge.*

*Columbus had a flood about a year ago which did more destruction than this one did.*

*Speaking of things that are more pleasant and things in common, the last letter I wrote to you, was the first letter I ever wrote with this pen also. I just bought it recently also,it’s a Towers, but it doesn’t write as good as your pen, I guess I’m a poor judge in buying a pen, well here’s hoping it doesn’t have to write too many more. (Ha Ha) (Silly Boy)*

*Seriously I know a prayer can do more good than the pen I’m holding and writing with.*

*Sunday, the CYO of St. Vincent’s held a Bingo party in the church hall. We had a good turnout despite the heavy snowfall. St. Vincent’s also has a new electric organ, which cost thirty-eight hundred dollars, but the beauty and tone of it is priceless. Helen Ienn did play the old organ, but she doesn’t know how to play the new one and I guess because of this, another lady has played it since we have had it.*

*Well, I must say good-nite now, hoping this finds you not studying too hard, well write soon, please,*

*With Love,*

*Glenn*

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2517 Prairie Ave

Chicago 16, Ill

June 24, 1948

[small format Thank you note]

Dear Glenn,

I received your letter and beautiful [graduation] gift last week (it seems impossible that almost a week has gone by). To say I was surprised is putting it mildly. I really feel congratulated now! Thank you so much.

Everything about graduation was beautiful – including the weather. The ceremony took place after a solemn high mass. Cardinal Stritch gave us our Nursing Certificates. This evening, Esse gave a small party in my honor which was a very happy occasion. I haven’t laughed so much in one evening for a long time. I received many lovely gifts which also made me happy.

I’m not on duty till 1PM this afternoon and right now its 9 AM. Got short-changed on sleep these last few days and am very sleepy right now. I hope you will be able to read this letter. The red ink is left over from working Monday night – which was also the cause of my lack of sleep.

Will be signing off – but before I do, thanks again for the lovely bracelet and for the apology which was equally lovely.

My vacation plans keep getting changed all the time so I don’t know when it will be. I don’t plan on any vacation till either late summer or early fall.

Bye now,

Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*July 19, 1948*

*Dear Delphine:*

*Hello again, I suppose you have been wondering why I haven’t wrote up till now, but my very inadequate excuse is that I have been harvesting up to yesterday noon.*

*The harvest was very good this year, but second to last year’s harvest, which was the largest in the country’s history.*

*Dad has one of the largest combines around here which we harvest with. It cuts, thrashes and spreads the straw in the field in one operation.*

*It has been cool here this summer with plenty of rain, it rained this morning while I was going to church.*

*Well, what’s the good news from Chicago? I suppose you’ll be takin’ your much-needed vacation soon?*

*St. Mary’s is having its bazaar August 22nd, you’ll be sorry I you miss out on the fun.*

*St. Vincent’s are having theirs August 1st and St. Joseph’s bazaar is August 15th.*

*They’re playing “My Happiness” on the radio now, it is a very pretty tune and is one of my favorites along with the “Woody Woodpecker” tune.*

*Fr. Ed had a funeral yesterday at St. Mary’s for Leo Cutsor, who died of poor health.*

*Hoping to hear from you soon, pardon my slowness.*

*Bye Now,*

*Glenn*

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Aug. 3, 1948*

*Dear Delphine,*

*How are you getting along?*

*Are you enjoying cool sunny weather, as it is here?*

*We have had about five inches of rain here in the past week. The crops look like a “million,” after all the rain.*

*What have you been doing this summer, besides working hard?*

*Has your work or duties changed much since you graduated?*

*I haven’t seen Fr. Ed for about a month. My sister said he was to St. Vincent’s Picnic Sunday, but I wasn’t there. Couple of buddies and I went to Cheyenne for the Frontier Days Saturday, and I didn’t get back in time for the picnic, but I heard it was a success without me. So, I went back the next day to do my part in cleaning up the place.*

*I’ve been plowing the wheat field the past few days, and will finish up this week.*

*I suppose you’ve seen the picture, “Miracle of the Bells,” in which Frank Sinatra plays the part of a Catholic priest? I just got to see it last week and though it was a swell picture.*

*St. Andrews has started building a new church, which is to have a steel structure and seat 250 good Catholics.*

*Here’s hoping you’ll write when you find time.*

*Good bye now,*

*Glenn*

[It appears that Del, now 26, did take the bus and take a vacation. It also appears that Glenn, 25, had continued his pursuit of Del to “be his Valentine.” She finally said “yes” on September 8, 1948, as the tenor and tone of the correspondence changed dramatically! This is the slightly abridged version and some of the “repetitive” expressions of endearment are shortened. There were frequent lipstick kisses on letters as they dealt with being 600 miles apart. Some lovey-dovey language is retained in a smaller type size. A few of the lipstick kisses are included to give you an idea of what they were like.]

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2517 Prairie Ave

Chicago, Ill

Sept. 24, 1948

[small format Thank You note]

Hello darling,

You said to use any type of stationary – well, this is about all I have left. So, if you’re wondering what’s up, well, that’s it.

Well, today I put in an honest day’s work and so I feel it! But it’s good to get into the old routine again.

Oh yes, you wanted to know about my trip – it was very uneventful – I slept most of the evening, almost all night. Of course, every time we made a longer stop and the bus lights went on, I sort of woke up. However, I had a double seat and two pillows and boy – that was pretty near luxury. We made good time – that is the bus was on time always. But it was a pretty long trip. There was too much noise to try to concentrate on studying. Read about twenty pages – and that’s all. Since I came back I haven’t started studying nor have I had much sleep. Honey, you should see the kids out here – they’re all excited about my engagement and they’re very happy with me! This room is everyone’s stopping off place before they leave for home and right now – someone else has just stopped off!

The sisters out here are all teasing me too – “fly a little lower,” etc. Today the Superintendent of Hospital stopped at the desk and she asked me how I enjoyed my vocation. I said I just had a “wonderful” time. She said it was good to have me back and hoped I was going to stay a while (All the help is so indefinite around here so I suppose she was wondering.). Anyway, as it turned out I said “Oh, for a short time.” “Then what?” she said. So, I told her I was engaged. She said she was very happy and laughingly said “However, I’d like to fire your young man. We need your help.” So, honey, if she had anything to say, I’d be working at Mercy. But of course, she was kidding and anyway, she has nothing to say about my life. I shall lead it the way I want to – with you.

Oh, honey, - when I think of our being together I get so happy inside and then I think of how far apart we are and I won’t see you at all for so long and I feel really blue. My very own sweetheart I love you so and miss you so terribly.

I guess I’ll close before I get too blue – honey. Love me always! If we face our dark clouds together, they won’t be too dark long. Goodnight my precious – tomorrow I’ll write again – when I’m not so blue!

Loving you always,

Del X X X

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Sept. 23, 1948*

*Dearest Darling,*

*I miss you “little girl,” but I’m not lonely because I have your love.*

*It sure was very sweet of you to call me last nite to let me know you got back safely, when I was working Wednesday. I thought that my “love’ would be back about 3 o’clock, I guess my mind was timed for the occasion.*

*It rained here last night and it was very cool today, I couldn’t work in the field today because they were too wet, so I just worked on some machinery.*

*I suppose every sister in the hospital was wondering if you were coming back, didn’t they, darling?*

*I guess I’ll have to go to Columbus and get our pictures, I thought they would mail them, but I guess not.*

*Please don’t feel disappointed darling, but this is all the ink I can tease out of the ball point, I need a new filler and I’ll invest in a new one next time I’m in town.*

*I’ve been kissing your picture in my billfold goodnight. Good nite, “Blue Eyes” & Darling,*

*With Love,*

*Glenn*

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2517 Prairie Ave

Chicago 16, Ill

Sept 25, 1948 10:30 PM

[small format Thank You note]

My Darling,

I’ve missed you so today – it’s been a bad day for me in this way. It seems anything I did - I would still think of you and the distance that separates us. Maybe it because its Saturday and out here everyone see their man on Saturday night and I couldn’t see my man – the man I love! Oh, my precious, how can you understand that one can be blue and alone even in a crowd of people – yep, that’s me. Then I don’t even have a picture to look at – to kiss goodnight. I look at my ring so very often, kiss it and I have to share a moment with you!

Sorry, honey, I shouldn’t let you know how blue I am, instead I should bring a smile in my letter. Will try or else will close… and I don’t want to close, because when writing, I feel just a little closer! Talking to you this way is all I have left to do for a while. The song they’re playing is “You in My Arms.” (Wish I were in your arms!) Me – I’m the dreamer!! Loving you so much, too! I can’t wait till Monday because then there should be some mail from you and I know that will make me feel better.

Speaking of a smile, maybe if I described the position in which I’m in you’ll get a smile. Our beds here are old hospital beds – you can make the head of them come up. That’s my position – head of bed elevated writing on the stationary box on my lap. I am relaxing a little. Put in nine hours of duty today. I was supposed to work a 1 PM to 9 PM on and I didn’t get off until 10 PM. However, I did get some sleep this morning – until almost ten o’clock.

Last night we went to Pop’s. We didn’t have supper so we ate there – (my roommate Mary and Cil). We had French Fried Shrimp with French Fried Potatoes & salad. Very good. I played “A Tree in Meadow” and “It’s Magic.” They don’t have “My Happiness” – Had an “eating” good time. It was good to get back to the Home with a full tummy!!

I knew I had something special to write about yet, and for a minute I couldn’t remember but then I put my hand up to brush my hair away and I remembered – my hair. Well, darling, you call me your “little girl” all the time – now you shouldn’t see me! I wanted Cil to trim my hair just to get rid of the split ends. Well, Cil just evened it out on one side then had to cut it some more to even up the other side and now my hair is a little bit short. However, everyone tells me it looks real cute. I look at myself in the mirror and wonder who that kid is looking at me, then I realize it’s me with the “new look.” The girls assure me it will be long for my wedding and honey, I know it will be. Cutting hair makes it grow faster and it is good for the hair. Honest honey, your bride will have long curls. Bet you won’t even know I cut it at Xmas time when you see me. Please say you don’t mind too much!

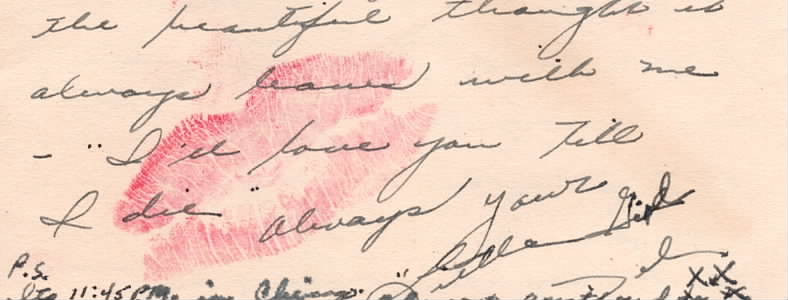
Tonight, I am going to get an hour more sleep because we set our watches back and go on central standard time and so when I look at the watch I won’t have to reconvert and figure back an hour to figure out what you’re doing! Boy, I’m keeping tab on you through mental telepathy!!

I’m having a hard time to get used to running all day every day again. All the muscles in my legs and thighs are letting me know that they’re a part of me. Seems I tire out easily. However, will be in the groove again soon – any time now.

Just knew I’d hear one of our songs before I finished and what do you know, it’s “A Tree in the Meadow!” On its soft smooth strains, I’ll close my letter with the beautiful thoughts it always leaves me with – “I’ll love you till I die.”

Always your “Little Girl,”

Del



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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Sept 27, 1948*

*Dearest Darling:*

*How is my little girl today? I’ll bet you’re working and studying very hard to pass those exams successfully, just for us.*

*I received your wonderful letter today, darling, so heartily agree with you darling, that no one can tell us now, how we want to live our lives, because only we two know the answer, after we fell in love with each other, but I can imagine the sense of humor that sisters have because, well, it’s easier to like people and to get acquainted if they are that way.*

*Sunday, I went to Columbus in the afternoon to visit my landlord, as they wanted me to come over to see their irrigated corn, which they said would make over a hundred bushels per acre. They also live close to the Electric Power house, so we went to see it. I guess it cost millions of dollars to build. We walked through the building where they had three huge turbines which will generate 18,000 horse power each. We get our electricity from this big power plant. We also saw the huge reservoir of water which feeds the turbines. While we were by the reservoir there was a man fishing, we noticed a bit, so we watch him pull in a big catfish which weight 20 pounds - it was the biggest fish I’ve ever seen caught on a line!*

*Today I helped Allan pick corn, I bring the corn to the crib to be stored, it’s not too hard of work, it’s mechanically unloaded now.*

*By some coincident which is spelled wrong, they’re playing your favorite tune on the Vaughn Monroe show, “It’s Magic,” which is fast becoming “our” favorite, honey.*

*It’s been sunny and a little chilly here in the mornings, but I don’t mind it, I’ve got your love to keep me warm, “always” so I’ve got no reason to complain, when I’ve got your heart to keep me from becoming too lonesome, and our happiness to look forward to, honest, honey, you’re too wonderful, too sweet, to explain how much I love you, and how much I want to make you happy.*

*Well, darling, I want to say to my “little girl” “sweet dreams” and I’ll write real soon again, must say my prayers and kiss your picture good nite!*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

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[Chicago]

Sept 28, 1948

[small format Thank You note]

Dearest,

Yesterday was Monday and I was afraid it would be – of you know, a blue Monday. That’s what I thought after I came over at noon and saw an empty mail box. Instead it turned out to be one of the sunniest Monday’s that I can remember. Your letter finally came in the afternoon mail and believe me I was flying on my cloud again. Then to top it off, I decided to go to the drug store for some badly needed supplies and I thought I’d ask if my pictures came in. Honey, you can’t guess how happy I was or how good it was to see your smiling face looking at me. Now you know what made my Monday sunny – I have a picture to kiss goodnight!

Well I guess I’m really in routine again. The floor has been busier than ever. We have so very many surgicals on the floor and they’re my favorite type of patient. There is always something doing. My feet get so tired – they’ve had such a long rest from the continual running pace of working on the floor! I’m working 7-3 all this week with Saturday as my day off. It’s hard to get used to getting up at 6:15 every morning – believe me! We usually land up in the coffee shop after 3:30 for a cake. I am taking a razzing from the interns and the residents that I know – five-week vacation, huh? Is that what it takes to get engaged? Of course, I get their goals & just smile sweetly and say “yes, and it’s wonderful: - and darling, I mean it! It is wonderful – simply wonderful being in love of a man that is everything I can ask for! (In case you’ve lost track honey, I mean you.)

I was going to write this letter earlier this evening but was hungry and went to “Pops.” We had luscious hot pork sandwiches. It’s ten o’clock already and I don’t know what’s become of this evening. It seems to fly by – time that is. But it seems like it should be later in the week. We played “It’s Magic” at Pop’s and I played one of your favorites, “12th Street Rag.” I was feeling fine – having such sweet memories comeback when all of a sudden, the music changed and “All Alone and Lonely – For My One and Only” fills the air. Reality comes to me but fast and I realized how far we are apart. Moral of that story is – what a song can do to your feelings!

I’m getting sleepy and looking over my letter I notice how badly I’m scribbling. Hope you can read it!!

Good night my precious – what six letter word means I’m yours forever? For answer to this, turn bottom of page upside down. [Always yours]

Please write soon honey cause your letter helps make the day so much shorter and happier!

Del

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2517 Prairie Ave

Chicago 16, Ill

Sept. 29, 1948 10:45 PM

[small format Thank You note]

Darling mine,

“Why do I tell myself – these things that happen are all really true – when in my heart I know the magic is my love for you!”

Honey, I just started to write when the radio began playing “It’s Magic” – and as fast as that goes – it’s true! It’s magic!

My – this paper is so small – I only start writing and I’m down to the end of a page!

Had a cuttin’ good time tonight. Both my roommates, Mary and Cil wanted their hair cut a little shorter – their short cuts were getting long. You should have heard all the remarks I keep hearing – “I hope my hair grows longer over night! Cil says “I know why you wanted to cut my hair so short – you wanted to see what I looked like when I was a baby!” Oh honey, I wish you could hear those two – their carryin’ on like mad and I keep stopping and adding my two cents in. Not to be reminded of their recent cuts they want to dismiss the words short, long, haircut, curls out of their vocabulary. You’d think they really had short cuts when they say “It’s a good thing our hats aren’t bigger – you couldn’t see my hair” etc.! Now I feel good – my hair almost looks longer than theirs after the hair cutting I got a few days ago! ‘Nuff about hair. I’m afraid I’ll dream about the beautiful long hair that I had a week ago,

You’d never know that today I received a beautiful letter from my sweetheart! Why I haven’t even told you how happy I was just ‘cause I felt all morning that your letter would be there. And it was! You don’t ever seem to disappoint me! Your letter made exceptionally good time. It must have had a plane ride. It was mailed Sept 28th and I got it in the morning mail on Sept. 29th!

I was going to only write on one of these sheets but here I am filling up another sheet. It’s 11:20 PM and I have my bath to take yet so I’ll have to close soon honey! Everyone is putting out their lights and all is quiet so I guess I’ll follow suit.

Goodnight my love – and sweet dreams!

Loving you,

Del

P.S. Just a line – I forgot to tell you – I won’t write tomorrow night because I’m going to Esse’s to pick up the last of my luggage. Sort of had to tell her about our mishap to explain why I came in so late. Believe me though when I say it wasn’t a mishap, it was wonderful to have a few hours with you. I was without any discomfort!

Night’!

Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Sept. 30, 1948*

*Dearest Darling:*

*How is my “little girl?” I sure miss you honey. I guess I think of you a million times a day. Your letters darling, are wonderful, I love the hand the writes them, I miss you darling, more than I ever could explain or express myself in writing. The only way I want or really can prove how much I miss you honey is to have you near me when I feel lonely and then to hold you close to me and to kiss your sweet, tender lips.*

*So, my “little girl” is lonely on Saturday nights, I guess I’ll surprise her and call her some lonely Saturday eve. I was a “chump,” honey and didn’t write down that number that you gave me. I believe it was Victoria 9030, please correct me honey on this, as soon as possible.*

*I guess or should sincerely say I got a wonderful letter, the past three days, from the girl, “I’ll love till the day I die!” Your last letter made me very happy, darling, it’s an inspiration to hear from such a wonderful person as you, honey, and more wonderful to be in love with you, darling. I ask God each day to make me worthy of such a love.*

*So, it only takes five weeks to become engaged, so they say, but it’s really wonderful darling. So “my little girl” has a new hair-do, maybe I ought to have a snap shot of her, to see what they done to my lover. I guess I’ll have to hope and pray really hard for those long curls you promised me for “O” “W” “D.” [Our wedding day?]*

*Have you got that big book memorized darling, the one you had here?*

*Today I done work, I believe, to justify a good night’s sleep. This morning I finished mowing some hay, then I went and got Dad’s hay stacker to put it up, sometime tomorrow. This afternoon I got my corn-picker out of the shed and greased it up, I’ll probably start picking the first part of the next week.*

*I’ll close now Darling and hope this finds you, “my little girl” happier than ever.*

*Always your darling*

*Glenn*

*----------*

*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Oct. 3, 1948*

*Dearest Darling-*

*How is my darling “little girl” today? As today is Sunday, I went to seven-thirty mass. It was nice and sunny today and fairly warm. Honey I think that cat of Father’s likes to get into church. This morning one of the windows were open and the cat jumped up on the window and came in, as to say “you can’t keep me from coming inside.”*

*How is my “little girl” coming with that big red book, I’ll bet anything, you know everything that’s in that book and more besides. In a week or so honey, you’ll think about tying the book with a red ribbon and throw it “you know where.”*

*Tomorrow I’m going to help Dad pick some corn, I guess it will take two or three days and then he will help me pick.*

*This afternoon I read the “funnies” and listened to a thrilling last day baseball game, between Boston Red Sox and the New York Yankees, the Red Sox’s won 10 to 5. The*

*World Series starts this week, but I won’t be able to listen to them because I want to get my corn picked while the weather is so nice. I guess I take the attitude that I can listen to the radio when the weather turns colder.*

*Daniel’s still doesn’t have our pictures done or finished yet, darling. I guess or suppose he’s having trouble with my picture as is usually the case.*

*While I’m writing darling, I got “sis’s” radio playing, you remember that little “cracker box.” If she knew how I insulted the looks of her radio, she’d probably shut it off or take it away. The Manhattan Merry-Go-Round is on, they’ve just played, “Love Somebody, Yes, I do” and I can say darling, I do love you more each day. Miss your arms around me darling and your loving touch, honey, more than I can explain when we’re apart. They also played “A Tree in the Meadow” which is popular now and is “our” favorite by now. They also played that “naughty” tune, I call it, “You Call Everybody D\_\_\_\_!” [Darlin]*

*How is my “little girl’s” “new look,” will I need to keep my fingers crossed honey? Forgive me darlin, I guess I can’t help but tease a little.*

*I suppose it’s time for me to throw you an imaginary kiss good nite, darling.*

*Always yours – in love,*

*Glenn XXX*

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Monday night

October 4, 1948

Darling,

It’s really Oct 5th now – its 12:45 AM

7 PM

Well, I decided against writing last night at such a late hour so here I am early this evening. Haven’t started studying for this evening. The dates for the State Board have been officially announced for Oct. 25 through 30th. Some one of these days they’ll send in the two exams which I’ll be taking them. I’m so glad to have ten more days more to study! The going is slow but I did put in at least an hour a day as of last week Friday. Some days I study more. I stayed in last Saturday on my day off and studied most of the day. Haven’t studied tonight yet but the evening is young! Have been getting about six hours of sleep the first week I worked. However, Friday I slept from 4:30 till 9 PM, then went to sleep at 11:30 that night and slept till 10:30 Saturday morning. Guess I really caught up on the sleep I missed.

Thursday night I went to Esse’s right after I got off duty. She lives two blocks away from the bus and it had just started to rain. I wasn’t prepared for the rain and as a result got soaking wet. Esse hadn’t seen my new cut and believe me it was straight by the time I got there. However, Ricky said, “Sis, you look pretty.” So, we went into a long discussion on my hair cut and if he liked it and he liked it! He’s just a darling! He was five years old last August. Although that sounds pretty young, he has definite ideas about a lot of things. He and Delphine are both very happy about the fact that they’re going to have a new uncle someday soon. Esse was telling me about the long discussion that went on between them when they found out about my coming marriage. You see, they both want to be in the wedding party. Ricky argued with Delphine that he should be something ‘cause she was a flower girl at some wedding before. Delphine argued though that she’s my god-child, etc. Of course, they’re happy since I said we’d find something for both of them. I told Ricky he could be ring-bearer and maybe if Andy (Lee’s boy) could be in Nebraska, the two of them could be a couple. (Hope you don’t mind honey, it would look real cute and gosh, I just have to have my little darlings happy!) It’s so much fun planning – sort of vaguely, that is, cause darling I’d want to plan the wedding party with you. It’s at such times that I almost want to cry because the distance seems so far between us! I also have asked my life-time girl friends – we’ve been friends since I was five – to be in the wedding party. Of course, I want your little sis – I’m sure she would be really thrilled. As far as the men, you’ll have to start thinking about that part. I’d like to have Rosie Kontor and one of the twins too. My trouble is I have too many girl-friends!

Gosh sweetness, I don’t know how I trailed off on the subject – but you are my favorite subject and so our wedding would come right into line. As for the long hair – why honey, I’ll have long curls for “O.W.D.” honest! Remember how short my bangs were? I couldn’t even curl them! Well now I can make a pin curl if I twist only once around! Believe me – our WD is pretty far away – May is seven months away. Honestly honey when I think of it in months I don’t know how I can wait so long – why it’s like thinking about Xmas in the month of May. Darling when “OWD” does come it’ll be as happy as all the happiest Xmases I’ve ever had put together. And I’ve had some very, very happy Xmases! I’ve got a plan though – I’ll only think of how long it is till I see you again – and that’ll only be two and a half months away and at the rate time is flying – why, it’ll be here in no time flat!

My days are so full – I get up at 6:15 every morning and gee, I very seldom get off before four o’clock. Then I go to five o’clock supper, why the evening is started before I’ve turned around! There seems to be so much to a day – so many things to do – time doesn’t drag but the month doesn’t seem to go by very fast. Some months used to be a week gone before I realized what the date on the calendar was – not this month – I even know the hour!

A few places in the letter I trailed off and forgot to mention some important points. For your peace of mind, the night I was at Esse’s, Rich took three pictures of me with my new cut. They were indoor pictures and my hair was pretty straight even if it was dry at this point. However, it should be pretty natural cause it doesn’t curl too much even after being put up. Then speaking of pictures, I’ve had an extra set made for you of the pictures I took in Nebraska. The reason the pictures I took in church didn’t come out was because I snapped twice. Father Ed took one of the windows in the kitchen the Monday I was leaving and didn’t catch my train. Anyway, we didn’t think it would come out and I wanted to take the film with me so we just took anything at 6:45 in the evening. I happened to be sitting there and of course, since I didn’t think it could come out anyway, I let him snap me – looks awfully sad & I’m not only referring to the expression on my face. The chocolate cake looks good though. Please honey, don’t show it around – the only reason I’m sending it is because, well, you’d wonder how terrifying I did look and you once said you wanted to show my blue moments as well as my happy ones as I want to show the same with you.

Honey I’m tired and getting long winded here – but I haven’t even said how happy I have been to get two letters in succession from you! Both of them so sweet! Makes me close my eyes and fly away on my dream cloud to “my boy” out in Nebraska. Such happiness! Gee, but I love you!

Course I’ve got a confession to make – by last Saturday I was very disappointed – no mail they kept saying. I had a blue week-end and wanted to write you a letter so very much but the mean part of me said no – not until I heard from you. It was a hard battle not to write because when I’m writing I feel you aren’t quite so far away and I am talking to you. However, all the meanness left me when I opened your letter Monday noon and I felt awfully foolish. I’ll keep writing dear as often as I can but while you’re so busy sweetheart, I’ll be sensible and not expect so much – just so you drop a line and say “I love you” once in a while I’ll be content, and just so I get a letter on Mondays.

Last night I got side-tracked I studied till nine in the evening and then got at my uniform I had to iron. At nine-thirty we got awfully hungry and I decided to go to Pop’s. At Pop’s we hit into one of those impromptu parties – it was somebody’s birthday and this intern’s girl-friend had brought a cake with candles. (Good cake too! We had some good sandwiches previous to eating the cake though, so that we wouldn’t make big piggies of ourselves!) In the course of the evening I got to talking with one of the residents who is from Oklahoma City. He’s all for the West and thought it was grand that I was going to live in Nebraska. I’ve got my room-mates convinced too and so they kept chirping in about how wonderful it must be. One remark he said, though, that stuck and which puts much meaning to our love is “A farmer’s life is that hardest life next to a doctor’s, but to be living in the fresh air and open country is worth the sacrifices made.” It’s very true especially when the one with whom the life time is going to be spent is you!

Always yours,

Del



Photos from previous October 4, 1948 letter

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2517 Prairie Ave

Chicago 16, Ill

October 6, 1948 10 PM

Hello honey,

Well I’m at the end of my day’s journey – will pull up for the night real soon – just as soon as I tell “my boy” that I’ve missed him and still am loving him more each day!

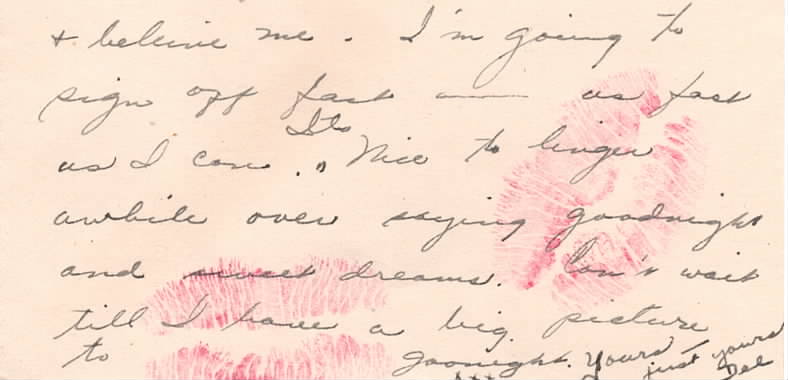
Bet the letter I wrote yesterday took ages for you to read through so will make this one short and sweet. Can’t let you gold brick every day – reading my letters that is.

Honey, have you heard the new song “Buttons and Bows.” My roommates have quipped it is my song. It’s real cute but the words don’t fit. Honest.

I got my corduroy dresses yesterday from Nebraska. Mrs. Mostek from Duncan sewed them and they’re really nice. Wish you could see them. I have to buy buttons for them and sew! That’s a hard thing to do – I mean to get down to doing. Of course, if I want to wear them – well I’ll get ambitious.

Haven’t been down-town shopping since I’ve been back. One of these days. I guess on my day off, I’ll go shopping. Then something new will be added. I’ll get some new stationery – man won’t you like that!

I promised a short letter and believe me I’m going to sign off fast – as fast as I can. It’s nice to linger awhile over saying goodnight and sweet dreams. Can’t wait till I have a big picture (room for kiss) goodnight.



Your, just yours,

Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Oct. 7, 1948*

*Dearest Darling:*

*How is my “little girl” today? I miss you more each day, darling. I guess I miss any sweet little message from my “little girl” because I haven’t had one for a week I guess. I’m not complaining, honey, I know, I’ll hear from you tomorrow, I just have the feeling I guess.*

*Yesterday and today it has been very chilly and rained both days.*

*Yesterday I couldn’t do much around here, so I went to Columbus in the afternoon to get some repairs for my tractor. I also felt happier yesterday paying off my bet to my little darling, forgive me honey for being so slow, I guess I’ve been too busy picking corn, honey. I only wish, I could deliver them to you personally, to also be able to place one in my “little girl’s” hair, then be able to kiss both of my darling lip’s and roses.*

*Today, darling, I went to Osceola to get my car serviced at the Chevrolet garage. I believe I waited about 3 hours before it was my turn. It also was cloudy and chilly today and it sprinkled off and on, all afternoon. We sure can use all the rain that comes for the wheat, which looks very pretty now, like a new planted lawn.*

*Last night I stopped in for Alois S., then we went to Silver Creek to dance, darling there wasn’t hardly nobody there, I guess the reason was that there were too many dances last night. It was the first dance I went to since we were in Silver Creek the last time darling. I missed you more than ever last nite. Being it was the first time I couldn’t hold you or dance with the girl I always want to love, the girl I’m going to make just all mine. I keep telling myself it’s only temporarily and it won’t be too long till your back in my arms for keeps. I forgot to tell you honey who played at the dance. It was Harry Collins, one of the best bands in Nebraska, they play mostly popular music.*

*When do you take your exam? Please let me know the day, so I can pray and hope doubly that day, “dear one.”*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

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2517 Prairie Ave

Chicago, Ill

October 7, 1948 9 PM

My very own Darling,

Today could be one of those very memorable days – your beautiful red, red roses arrived. Like the symbol of a beautiful love they fill my room with their sweet fragrance. I wish you could share their beauty with me – long stemmed, luxurious buds that are beginning to open up. Thank you so much my sweet, for the happiness they have brought with them.

Mary was shopping today and bought some stationary for me. I am definitely going shopping Saturday (my day was changed today, Sister asked if I wouldn’t mind!!)

Guess what honey? I’m listening to Guy Lombardo and he’s playing “I Don’t Care if it Rains All Night.” Very appropriate. Today should have been a blue day since it rained off and on all day. However, this noon when I came over for my lunch time, your roses greeted me and how could anyone be sad when receiving “one dozen roses with someone’s heart in beside them.”

The music is so very sweet – and Glenn dear, I can close my eyes and almost see you. My darling how I wish we could be sitting together very content and just listening to the music.

Tonight, I studied first before starting to write so that I would study. Tuesday night I didn’t study at all since I spent all evening writing. I’m not complaining – it’s just that I can’t afford the luxury of spending long evenings with you – just yet. Comes the time and you’ll be sorry I don’t have something to keep me busy. You’ll be spending too much time reading my letters!

Have to iron a uniform for the a.m. so, goodnight my darling and sleep with many sweet dreams.

Your very own

“Del”

[A scrap of paper in the letter: Del wrote her address as] *“Rt. #2, Osceola, Nebraska.”* [She tore it off and noted:] “Absent minded or wishful thinking? Psychiatry would explain it as my subconscious mind wanting to be at that address! Good old sub-conscious, it knows what’s right and where I belong!! Please read before throwing out! Ha! Ha!

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**From Glenn’s sister, Phyllis, aka “Small Fry,” age 16, to Delphine:**

Osceola, Nebr.

Oct. 8, 1948

Dear Del,

I want to thank you for the nice birthday card you sent me on my birthday, and I also wished you could have been here too.

I just got done practicing my piano lessons so I thought I’d write and tell you I got your card, so you wouldn’t think it got lost. It is raining out here in Nebr. We got about a inch and a half in two days.

We ordered our class rings in school this week, they are pretty expensive though. They are very nice, if the order gets sent out right away we should have them before Xmas.

Rita and Theresa asked me to join their CYO again this year, as I belonged last year and enjoyed it very much, as we had a meeting about every Sunday night and we had lots of fun playing cards and dancing.

I am a junior in high school this year and every year the juniors put on their class play; we are having ours in November, and it’s a hill-billy play, so now we kids in school are working on it already.

The setting is a country store in the old days with a potbelly stove and barrels full of candy and sugar and things.

Guy Lombardo is playing on the radio now and it really sounds pretty, the WNAX Polka band is playing in Columbus next week, you should be here to take it in with Glenn.

Well better close now as it is about time for “little girls” should be in be. I don’t consider a girl of sixteen ‘little’ anymore.

Love,

Phyllis

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2517 Prairie Ave

Chicago, Ill

October 8, 1948

*Because God made thee mine, I’ll cherish thee.*

*Through light and darkness, through all time to be.*

*And pray His love may make our love divine –*

*Because – God made thee mine!*

Sweetheart mine –

Hello! Happy anniversary! That’s the reason for all the fancy trimmings on this letter. And just to clear your memory as to what kind of anniversary this is, I guess I’ll have to tell you. A month ago, on a Wednesday night, on the eighth of September, I promised very solemnly to be “your bride.” Tonight, dearest, the promise seems very solemn and real – something to cherish while we are separated.

Your ‘lil ole blue eyes has gotten mighty solemn – guess hearing “Because” tonight held such a special meaning for me that I wanted to share it with you. All day it has been unusual – my hours for instance – I worked 7 to 11 then went off duty till 2:30 and worked from 2:30 till 7 PM. Students had a sodality meeting which is always preceded by Benediction so I went to Benediction since chapel is on the same floor that I work on. Earlier today, in the mail, I received a darling card. It was an “engagement wishes card” the likes of which I have never seen. Think I’ll send it along so you can see it. This is the Loretta which has been my friend since I was five years old.

It’s late – 11 PM. I haven’t studied today but am planning to do so tomorrow since tomorrow is my day off. Sunday will be a big day for me. I have to work 7 to 3 then as a special favor to one of the private duty nurses I’m going to work so she can have the week end off. I shall work 3 to 11. Sounds like a lot of hours – well it is! But then Granny Johnson is a darling. I remember doing private duty on her once before – last March. She’s still in the hospital, poor darling.

Shall be closing now honey, even though I hate to. Could spend the whole evening writing sweet nothings to you but then honey I wouldn’t get any of my work done or any beauty sleep! Must wash my hair and stuff. Will have a quiet day off. My roommate went to the Purdue [football] game. It’s the homecoming game for Purdue and Mary’s beau hails from there. She fixed Cil up with a date and Cil kept moaning about it since men don’t interest her too much. Wish you could meet the girls. When you come out this winter, we’re all going to take you out one of the evenings (all three of us & U). Doesn’t it sound like fun? Come out sooner & find out. Now – I’m tempting you and shouldn’t be, but gee honey, I’d love to see you again! Real soon, that is!!

Lovingly yours,

“Del”

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October 9, 1948

Saturday Night: 11:40 PM

Hello Honey!

Well, here I am – all scrubbed up for tomorrow – shoes polished, buttons in my uniform, - in fact everything all set to get up at 5:30 AM with alarm set, et al. The only thing left to do is say Hi to you and say my prayers.

I have had a busy day off what with washing & ironing uniforms, doing some shopping down-town, etc. It’s so quiet up here – the girls are out for the weekend and the other kids on this floor work nights. So I am all alone with my thoughts of you.

By the way, while I was shopping down-town, I stopped at the jeweler & had my bracelet fixed. I was tickled pink to have it fixed so I can wear it again. The man was pleased too – he thought it a lovely bracelet. I also had my watch set. It still ran a few minutes fast each day. Anyway, I waited while I had these two things done & the charge – now you’ll be surprised – was nothing! I almost fell over. Must be my new hair cut or something. Joke, huh?

My aim is to get to bed by midnight. Still have ten minutes left – must pause a moment to say – darling, I miss you so much. I have one rose in a glass bowl where it is opened to its prime. The others I put on the altar at our nurse’s chapel tonight. I won’t be in my room all day and they’ll keep a vigil for me at the altar! Do you know it’s only 2½ weeks since we were together? It seems like years – honest!

Always your own “little girl”

Del

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2517 Prairie Ave

Chicago 16, Illinois

October 11, 1948

My darling boy –

It was a “big deal” for me yesterday when the operator told me I had a long distance call on the line! And then to hear your familiar voice again!! Honey, it just took the legs from under me – believe me. Guess I get a little wordless when I get long distance phone calls and I just don’t know what to say. My heart had “wings” and I was just as happy as a bird to hear from you!

They’re having a “Barn Dance Frolic” at the Blackhawk tonight and it sounds like fun – over the radio. They’re singing “I don’t care if I never go to bed – I’m having such a darned good time.” Oh, the irony of it all – I’ve been trying to sleep all evening and just gave it up as a bad job and did some relaxing reading. Feels like I haven’t studied for ages but I’ve been too tired today to study and yesterday it was impossible. My patient was very restless and kept me busy. Today I was happy when my day was over – it was a struggle to get through the early part of the morning. About ten o’clock, one of our surgicals came back, in quite a condition. He was a thyroidectomy – he had his thyroid gland removed. It’s quite a delicate operation. The patient usually is very active prior to surgery – they worry a great deal, are very nervous and excitable so usually are not told that they are going to surgery. We had quite a time holding the patient down – he kept saying “Let me out of here!” He sat up in bed twice. After giving him some sedative, he finally quieted down. When he was awake this afternoon, I told him he was quite active. He looked so sad, then said, “I know, nurse. I heard you telling be to relax and be quiet, but I just couldn’t.” Between getting my routine work done and taking his blood pressure and pulse every half hour I was very busy. About two o’clock his blood pressure dropped quite a lot. When I left, he was getting plasma with an order for blood to follow. He’s a pretty sick guy, I guess. Before he came back from surgery I was really sleepy but once we got busy, I woke up but good. Tried to sleep since I’m off duty but got awakened twice and gave it up.

“Just as long as I’m with you – My Happiness” Honey, I can’t wait until that time comes! Starting tomorrow, I will again apply myself diligently to studying. I received my letter today stating that I would take my exams on the 26th and 27th of October. At 1:30 PM on the 26th I will have four exams to take, then at 8:30 AM on the 27th I will start with the other eight. One hour off for lunch and back to the grind. I believe they finish at 4:40 PM. The very thought of them frightens me! However, I’ll grit my teeth together and keep my nose down to the mill stone just “for us.” I know with your prayers, I’ll be able to apply my knowledge intelligently. I do hope I can interpret the questions correctly!

Must close now my beloved. I miss you so very much. I can’t wait until I see you again. Will have to fly like a bird one of these days – we’ll have to catch a bird and take lessons just as soon as state boards are over. Thank you honey for your letter on Monday. You haven’t failed yet. Have had a letter every Monday.

Always yours,

“Blue Eyes”

PS: Thank Phyllis for the letter – will drop her a line sometime.

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2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Illinois

November 14, 1948 [in envelope post marked October 15, 1948]

Glenn sweet,

Hello darling! “Do you love me – as I love you? I know my life to be dreams of you – in the still of the night.” After I had just written hello, this lovely voice sang the above quote and it fit so well – I had to write it down for you!!

Your letter came Tuesday and I haven’t answered it as yet. Sounds ungrateful, doesn’t it? Well, it isn’t! I studied long and hard Tuesday and then I had a day off Wednesday and I studied all day long (with a few short breaks in between). By evening I couldn’t even face a piece of paper. Mary and I sent to the movies to relax and get away from studies and hospital! We saw two good movies, “Tap Roots” and “Rachel and the Stranger.”

Guess what? I just had a hamburger and a coke – and was it good. I was so tired when I got off duty that I really slept – from 4 to 6. Therefore, I missed supper. So, at 10 o’clock, the hamburger tasted real good.

In your letter you asked what R.S.V.P. meant. Well, the extent of my French lies in those initials. The French for it is: “*Respondez, ‘sil vous plait”* – the literal meaning: “Reply if it pleases you” – or in correct English it is, Reply if you please.

Honey, don’t worry about making a phone call while I am on duty. Remember sweet I’m a graduate and they’re awfully nice to their graduates around here since they need them so desperately. Of course, if I weren’t on duty, I’d be more relaxed.

By the way, you never did tell me how you liked the song “Buttons and Bows.”

Loving you always,

“Your Del”

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Oct. 15, 1948*

*Dearest Darling:*

*How’s my “little girl” today? Working hard as ever I’ll bet.*

*I want to compliment you, with all my love for you, with each breathe I take, for putting my flowers on the chapel’s altar, sometimes Darling I believe my heart stops to realize what a true, sincere love God has given me. I give you my promise, darling, that I say a rosary each day of your exams so the tests will be just a matter of routine.*

*That trip, darling, coming out to see “my love” and her surroundings, sounds like it truly will be a lot of fun and will do yours truly good to leave his front door step, do you agree “blue eyes?”*

*It was frosty here this morning, I guess it’s a preview of what lies ahead. I’m still picking corn, we have about four days of picking left. Then I will pick some for neighbors. Generally, when I write, the radio is playing. At present Spike Jones is playing, he really tore our favorite song apart, “Its Magic” then Dorothy Shea done a wonderful job of singing “It Only Happens When I Dance With You,” words which can be said sincerely by “just yours.”*

*There is to be a dance in Fr. Ed’s hall Sunday for the benefit of Duncan’s rural fire department, honey. In my heart and mind, I’ll have an imaginary date with you. I sure wish my “little girl” were here for it, but I pray so time will fly faster to make my wants a reality.*

*Mary Ann Boruch is getting married next week to a fellow from Duncan, Edward Liss, I’m taking it for granted that you know her, right?*

*Allan and his pal, Martin Shemek, went to a dance in Columbus at the CA [Columbus Auditorium]. The WNAX band from Yankton, S.D. played. I forgot to tell you darling that Shimeralsa[?] plays at St. Mary’s dance.*

*Well darling I’ll close for now, hoping my message finds my ‘little girl” happier than ever, wish I wouldn’t have to part from you this way, but your “guy” just got to “hit the Hay” so he can face a new day, for everything it has to offer.*

* I’m always yours in waiting,*

*Forever yours,*

*Glenn*

*[Dried flower in this letter]*

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Friday night

10/15/48

My very own Darling,

This week is simply flying away. It must be because there is so little time left before the big grueling days of Boards! I do hope you’re praying hard. It so hard to study when I come off tired from duty – I wonder how much is really sinking in. I know it will be a wonderful feeling when they’re a thing of the past. But you’ll be glad when I can change the subject and talk about something else!

My roommate just called my attention to the radio and said, “There’s your song, Del.” The song? Well, its “Buttons and Bows.” It’s their way of teasing me. Knowing they don’t mean it makes it funny.

Goodnight my own precious. Don’t work too hard! By the way, when am I getting that big picture of you? Hmm?

Loving you always, Your ‘lil girl,’ Del

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2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Illinois

October 17, 1948

Sunday night –

Darling o’ mine –

It’s impossible to study – the girls are going out tonight and there’s a general hub-bub in the room. I can’t concentrate enough to study. However, I can write to you for I know what I want to write. It’s not anything I have to study. It’s all in my heart!

Yesterday I was all out for studying and I believe I put in at least four good hours of concentrated study. Today I can’t seem to get at it. Its only 7:30 and the kids will be gone by eight o’clock. Then I can really get down to business and study. Honey, I get so scared when I think of them (my exams) so I probably won’t be writing much this coming week but I know you’re interested.

Reading over what I have written, I wonder if you can make out what I have written – this letter is certainly loosely connected (just like my brain)!

Today I have been exceptionally happy – I don’t know why. I was singing or shall I say humming along all day long. But early this morning while I was passing my medicines, the radio across the hall was playing “Its’ Magic.” It holds such wonderful memories for me – memories that will be realities in a few short months.

Darling, it’s over, the song I was going to mention, anyway I don’t hear this song for just ages and then, when I’m writing to you, they play “Buttons and Bows” and someone always makes a remark.

“This is the moment – you are the one!” Golly honey, when they play such beautiful songs, I get all tied up in knots – thinking of you and wishing I were with you again! I miss you so much my sweetheart! Goodnight my precious – always remember that I love you with all my heart!

Always your very own,

Del

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[Lyrics to “Buttons and Bows” as sung by Dinah Shore:

East is east and west is west  
And the wrong one I have chose  
Let's go where I'll keep on wearin'  
Those frills and flowers and buttons and bows  
Rings and things and buttons and bows  
  
Don't bury me in this prairie  
Take me where the cement grows  
Let's move down to some big town  
Where they love a gal by the cut o' her clothes  
And I'll stand out in buttons and bows]

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Oct. 19, 1948*

*(Tue. Eve)*

*Dearest Darling:*

*It was sunny and warm here today, a typical autumn day. The leaves are turning yellow and brown and are falling off. I wouldn’t complain if it would rain.*

*Yesterday (Mon.) I finished picking my corn, the biggest and best crop your beau has ever had. I sure got a lot to be thankful for this year, but most of all, you, “little girl.”*

*Sunday, I went to a rodeo south of Silver Creek. It was just an amateur rodeo, something like the ones Fr. Ed had at St. Mary’s. They gave a black saddle horse away as a gate prize. The John Deere dealer from Silver Creek won her.*

*In the evening Sis and I went to the dance I was telling you about, honey, at St. Mary’s. There was a big crowd at the dance and a good time was had by all, except me, because I didn’t have “my happiness” there. Darling, I don’t want you to feel I didn’t enjoy myself at all, because I did have fun dancing with our future wedding attendants, truly a wonderful choice and swell girls. The CYO had charge of the hall, including the serving of lunch. After the dance I helped Fr. and the kids clean up the place – it was after two before I hit dreamland. The CYO sold chances on a big white teddy bear, probably you’ve seen it, as they said it was left over from the picnic. I wasn’t lucky enough to win it for you, darling, wish me better luck next time.*

*Fr. Ed couldn’t believe that you write to me three times a week, honey, but I guess it’s only natural for a brother and sister to tease or doubt our ability and know it’s our only way we can feel near each other until we’re near each other again.*

*You asked darling if I like the song “Buttons and Bows,” well I sincerely think it’s cute, it’s really becoming popular now, I believe I’ve heard it three times today on the radio.*

*About the pictures, they’re sure slow with them. I think he promised they’d be done sometime this week for sure. It seems like ages since I posed for those pictures with you darling. I guess it’s because I love and miss you so much, “blue eyes.”*

*Forever yours in love,*

*Glenn*

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2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Ill

October 20, 1948

Hello darling,

This could be a surprise to you, cause I said I wasn’t going to write. However, darling, I couldn’t very well not write – I miss you too much darn much! Then too, too much studying makes Del a dull girl – and that can’t happen – you wouldn’t like the result.

Yesterday was my day off. I studied from 9:30 till noon then went shopping in the afternoon. I bought an inverter for my phonograph so that now I use it. I figured with the Delco system at your place it wouldn’t play without an inverter either, so therefore it would be a good buy. I enjoy it so much! My dad gave me a polka record with the machine, “Helena” and “Harmonica Polka.” Yesterday I bought three records to start me off: “Bluebird of Happiness” with the reverse having “Say Something Sweet to Your Sweetheart.” Another record is “Jealousy” with reverse “On a Little Village Green.” Then I got a 12-inch record of “Stardust” with the reverse “Blues in the Night.” They’re all real good records – mm. They didn’t have “My Happiness” and I didn’t like the record of “It’s Magic.” Will get those on my next shopping spree.

Enough about me and my records. Of course, they’re really ours – I’m only giving our record library a start. Will fill in the Polkas when I get to Nebraska.

Cil is laughing at me. She said “I thought you weren’t going to write to your “boy” this week. No will power.” I just gave her a helpless look.

I have my uniform to iron yet and its 10 PM so will have to start getting to the end of my little missal. Before I close – what may I ask, has Mr. Daniels do to our pictures? I am getting quite perturbed waiting to have a picture of my boy. I could have sent you my large picture over and over. But I still wouldn’t have yours – would I? And believe me, darlin, I want it badly!!

Your own little girl

Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Oct. 21, 1948 (Thur. Eve)*

*To my happiness: -*

*You asked probably what was so wonderful about today, well, today I finally got your pictures. Yours, darling, is truly beautiful and natural like of my “little girl.” Your soft loving smile darling makes my heart skip, well, as for mine darling, please be brave. I didn’t write anything because it would be my luck to blot or smear it, so please don’t feel disappointed darling, please.*

*Just imagine darling, ‘I’ll always be yours’ is written on it, and I’ll do the same, is it a deal, honey?*

*Today or this morning I helped Dad pick corn. Dad has some corn that is too green yet to pick so we won’t pick it for a couple of weeks. This afternoon I went to Osceola and Silver Creek, mostly business (I think).*

*Please don’t worry or dread those exams darling because they are just a matter of routine checkup, of what my darling already knows and my prayers are that it will be my “little girl’s” success, (done achieved).*

*Sis, all she is talking about tonight is taking her driver’s test tomorrow in Osceola, a patrolman gives the test, and she’s pretty excited about the whole ordeal.*

*Allan and his neighbor buddy went to a Police Men’s dance in Columbus tonite. There was a dance in Silver Creek last nite, I didn’t go but I talked to the owner of the place and he said the crowd was pretty small, reason is I guess is, everybody is picking corn now.*

*The weather is still too wonderful to last here, I wish it would stay like it is now, year-round, not too warm or not too cool, but it never seems like winter to me or Christmas if it doesn’t get cold and have snow. I hope darling this last line didn’t get you chilly for the moment, if so darling don’t think about it twice because I am sending you a warm kiss honey to keep you happy and warm.*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Oct. 25, 1948*

*Dearest Darling: -*

*I guess tomorrow is D-Day for you, isn’t it honey? Please honey just relax and think of our happiness together, and you’ll breeze through those tests.*

*I get asked every once in a while, by someone that knows me real well, “How do you feel to be alone now?” Well darling, when they ask me that, I realize fully they’re just teasing me a little. But really the answer is in my heart, that it’s a mutual feeling only shared with you.*

*Today I’ve been helping Dad shingle his house, we don’t work as fast as some of those union guys work, it probably will take us about three or four days to finish the job.*

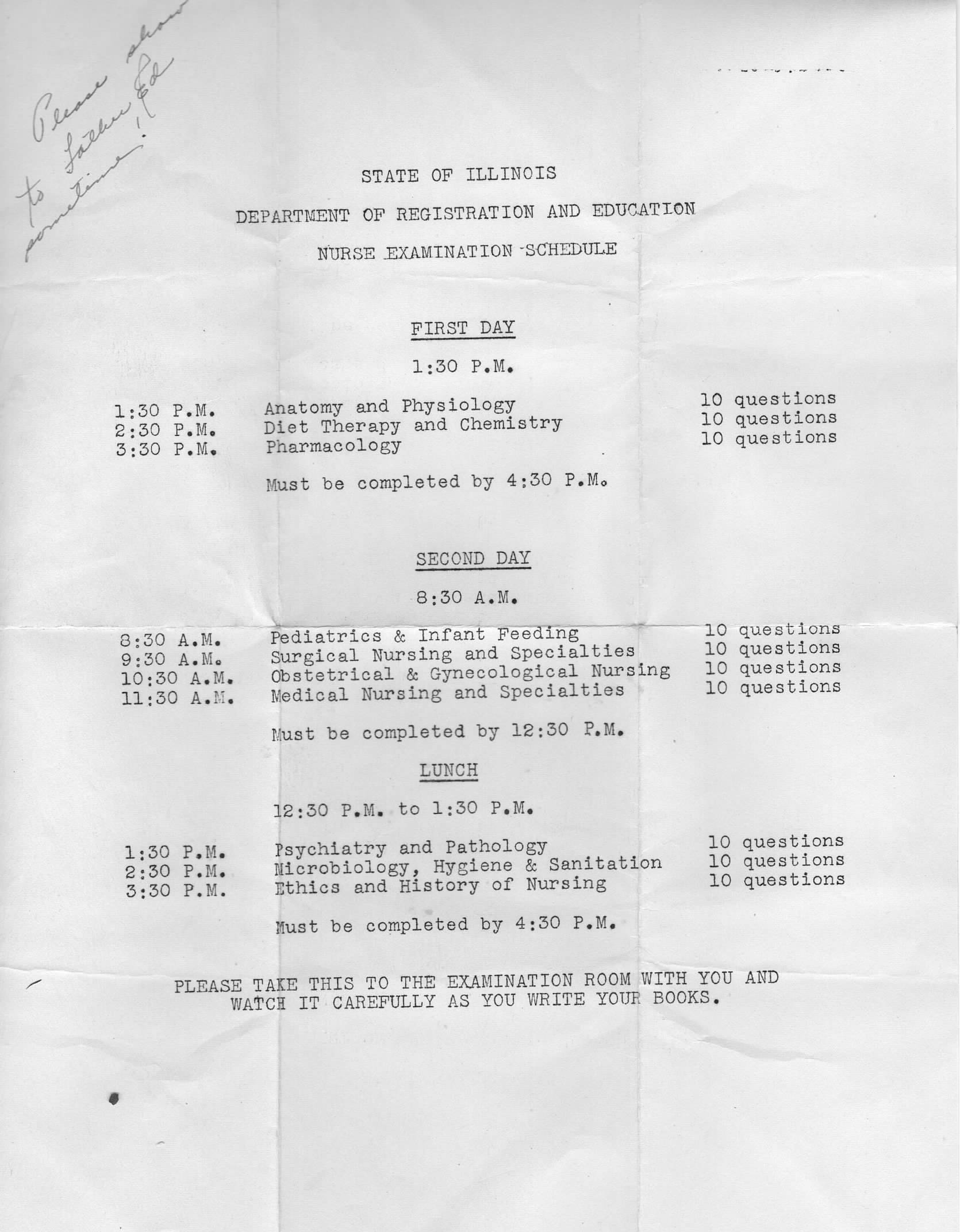
*Sunday, I went to early mass, read the funnies, ate supper, then listen to the radio, had some company, then back to my prayers and pillow, I guess honey, it was one of my laziest days.*

*Honey, “Buttons and Bows” has really taken over here. I guess I hear it at least three or four times a day and I like it better every time I hear it. I can realize honey, now, why your gal friends tease my true love, be brave darling and ask them if they aren’t just a little j\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?*

*Darling you mentioned in you last letter about buying a piece for your radio to use on a Delco current, darling I’m getting REA [Rural Electrification Administration] current in a month or by Christmas for sure I’ve been told, as they have poles set in the ground now, so darling unless it has some other value or importance to the radio honey we won’t be needing it.* [ FYI: Modern radios use alternating current AC current. Before the REA, all people had were batteries, which are direct current or DC. An inverter is used to convert the battery’s DC into AC for use by the radio. REA current is AC.]

*I realize that you are going to be a very busy girl this week. I want you to know I understand this and won’t feel blue if you don’t write me this week not that I wouldn’t want to hear from you, but I want to sacrifice this much time at least for your success and our love.*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

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[Del took her Illinois State Board Nursing Examination October 26th and 27th, 1948.]

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2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Illinois

October 27, 1948

My very own darling,

Hi! Guess what I thought of – this pen I’m holding; the last time I wrote with it I was praying that the words it wrote were true. Now the words that its writing are true and I don’t have to doubt their veracity either.

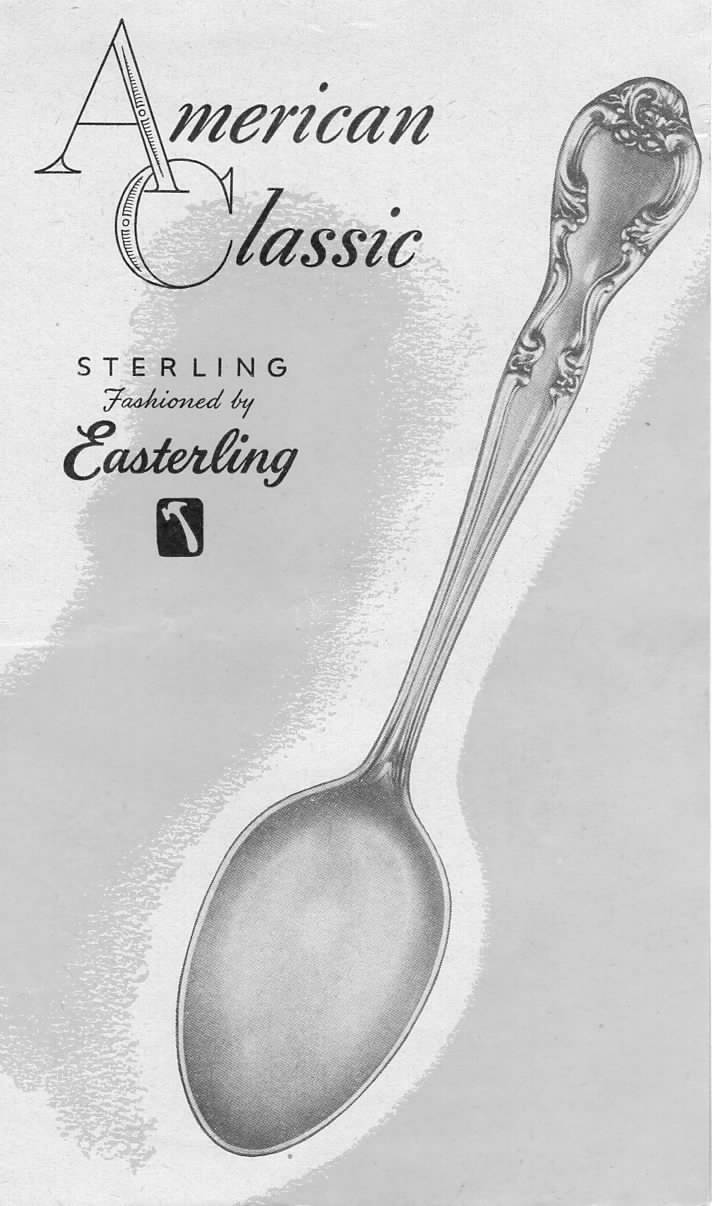
You’ve been very sweet writing a few extra letters and believe me, they helped. The reassurance was what I needed! Monday was a nightmare! We really studied all day and all evening until 1:30 AM. Then I went to bed and I couldn’t for the world fall asleep. At 3:30 AM I finally fell asleep. Studied or crammed over a few more forgotten things Tuesday morning. At 1:30 AM Tuesday afternoon, the show-down started. We finished at 4:30 PM. They were our hardest subjects – so we thought – and like beaten puppies we came home. They were pretty hard.

Tuesday evening at 7 PM we were at the books again till 2:30 AM. By this time sheer exhaustion put me to sleep and the “If I don’t pass, I’ll take them again” attitude relieved some of the tension. On Wednesday [the 27th] or today, I had to be there at 8:30 AM. We overslept – that is, we didn’t wake up till 7:30 this morning. We dashed around getting dressed and eating breakfast and with good timing, we decided we could get there at the appointed hour of 8:30 AM. Walking for a bus, we saw a cab and took it instead and it was wonderful to save so much time. In fact, we had 20 minutes extra so we had another cup of coffee at the nearby drugstore first.

I have no idea how I did in the darned tests and I’m past the stage of caring. If I pass, its sheer prayer that got me through and that I’m most certain of! I appreciate your prayers very, very much my darling and I thank you with all my heart! Believe me dearest I do! Oh gee, but I wish you were here tonight. Will close for tonight and finish in the morning. It’s been so long since I’ve written and I seem to have so very much to tell you! Your picture sweetheart! I haven’t even told you I got it Monday along with your letter! I am so happy with it! You look so very handsome on it. Of course, they didn’t do your dimple justice and you do have the sweetest, dearest dimple in the middle of your chin! And now, goodnight!

October 28, 1948

I want so to finish this tonight and I’m having such a hard time! First, I’ve been helping Mary study – she’s taking hers the 29th and 30th. Then one of the girls came in and really had a talking jag on. She doesn’t usually do too much talking but we took our tests together and so I guess we feel like blood brothers. I feel pretty good tonight except that I’ve been sleepy the whole day long. Everyone was commenting on the weight I lost in the last three day. All I need is some sleep and I’ll be as good as new again. The circles will disappear and I’ll be as fresh as ever.

Before I close, and I will with this page, I must tell you how I celebrated the closing of my exams. Mary’s boyfriend’s boy friend (you got that straight?) sells sterling silverware for the Easterling Silver Company. Anyway, he just started working last week on this job and talked himself into coming down. (First, I should explain that ever since I’ve been old enough to know what a bride to be should have, etc., I have wanted to start a sterling silverware set or should I say, start a set.) So, I was very interested in the line I was to be getting. Anyway honey, I ended up buying a knife, fork, teaspoon and a soup spoon for four. I also bought a meat fork. As this place gives you a 11% savings in trade for every order you make, I received a sugar spoon, butter knife and gravy ladle for free! Darling, I wish you could see it! It’s just beautiful! I’m very, very happy with it. Of course, I’m on the broke side now, but pay day isn’t too far off and if worst came to worst, I’ll ‘special’ an 8-hour shift to see me through. Don’t be alarmed though cause I’m not quite as desperate as all that! Believe me – cause I don’t want you to worry. I’m sure you will like it and be as proud of it as I am. The pattern is called the “American Classic” and it’s just as the name implies!

Here goes another page – and there goes the time – it keeps getting later! I did want to answer a few of the questions in your letter though. “I’ll always be yours” is written in your eyes, my precious. I don’t have to imagine a thing. Nor you, for I’m certain that “I’m always yours” is written plainly all over my face – in the picture and all!

I was happy to hear about your getting the R.E.A. through to the house. I didn’t know the inverter I bought for my phonograph I needed to play this thing here because we have direct current here and the blamed thing wouldn’t play. However, I thought it wouldn’t be such a bad investment cause I could have used it in Nebr. Also. However, it’s worth it, even for the six months I’m here. Cil bought two new records “This Is The Moment” – “Every Day I Love You Just a Little Bit More” by Jo Stafford, and Frankie Lane’s “We’ll Be Together Again” (lovely) and “Shine.” The only reason it’s not playing now is because Mary is still studying.

The weather here has been very mild. Almost like spring. It’s hard to believe that winter is coming and all the cold air and stuff and such – like snow! I love the beauty of the snow but can’t say that I appreciate the freezing part of it!

Your eyes must be getting almost as tired of reading as mine are at writing. Will close now, sweetheart! Sweet dream my darling and thank you for putting up with the talk about my tests. They’re over with and I refuse to worry anymore! In fact, I just know I’ll pass because it means so much to us! Won’t mention them again until I get the letter that says I’m a registered nurse. I’m afraid I won’t know the results till after New Year! There were 880 girls to take them this time so there will be thousands of books to correct. Good night precious. I love you!

“little girl”

Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Oct 28, 1948 (Thurs Eve)*

*The next time I hear from you darling, I’ll hear the wonderful and happy news that I want so much to hear, that you’ve reached your goal of success.*

*Darling its wonderful being in love with you, and it will be sincerely wonderful to have a swell girl like you “blue eyes” as a private R.N. to nurse our love, I really don’t mean our love for each other darling, but our bumps and tummy aches.*

*How many girls at the hospital took the exams darling? Did your girlfriend or I mean roommate take them too?*

*Tonite darling it’s raining, it’s a very quiet and peaceful affair, outdoors. Today was cloudy and cool. Today I went to a farm sale, 1 mile west and 1 mile south of Dad’s place, we also are still shingling Dad’s house.*

*I went to a wedding dance Tuesday evening, it was the Louie Liss and Maryann Boruch dance. Eddie Gryva was one of the attendants of the affair.*

*Ed was wondering when we were getting married! I told him sometime in the spring, then he asked which month, and then I gave him the bright answer, that you promised to let me know a week ahead of the time, in which he got a big laugh from that, you know Ed, a good guy.*

*Sis, she’s popping some popcorn now, she generally gets the job, but once in a while Allan and I will do it if she isn’t around. Wish you were here to help me enjoy it.*

*Darling I’ve been watching the days go by on the calendar, but the hours we’ve been apart seem so long, honestly I mess you so much it seems like six months, instead of six weeks.*

*Always faithful,*

*Glenn*

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2517 Prairie Ave

Chicago 16 Ill.

October 31, 1948

[hand-drawn jack-o’-lantern]

Dearest Darling -

I’m still glowing! I’m so happy now after having heard your voice. Gee darling, I bet you’re listening to the same program I am! “Manhattan Memory Go-Round.” And he’s singing “This is the Moment” – you are the one

Gosh, sweets, it’s wonderful that you’re brave enough to stay home all alone on Halloween Eve. Ain’tcha scared of all spooks running around? Hmm? That’s why I’m staying home tonight – some spook might scare me and I don’t have my big strong man to protect me!!

I told you how happy and beautiful the roses made me. I worked until 3 PM yesterday afternoon and Sister called me while I was on duty and asked me if I would work 3-11 on another floor. I guess I gave her a shocked voice when I told her I couldn’t possibly do 16 hours of floor duty in one day. Anyway, she begged me to help at least for four hours so I agreed to work four till eight PM. Anyway, I come to my room during supper hour for a cigarette. Mary greeted me with – “Hey Del –

[abruptly ends – page missing!]

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Oct. 31, 1948 (Sun. Eve.)*

*To my darling: -*

*Darling I’m glad, too happy to explain how fond I’m to know, that you’ve reached and achieved your highest aim in the field of nursing. Darling, accept my sincere congratulations with all the love and respect I hold for you. Darling, in my mind I didn’t have the slightest doubt about “my little girl” because as long as I known you “blue eyes” I’ve never seen you fail in any task you started.*

*I suppose darling you’ve been singing, why does it have to rain on Sunday! Well I guess we do have to have some rain though, don’t we darling?*

*This morning I went to early mass and this afternoon I went to Columbus for a while. Last nite I took in a movie in Osceola, “Summer Holiday.” It was in color and was good.*

*Darling now after I finished talking to you, I have the Manhattan Merry-Go-Round on now, I bet anything you had them on too. Did you hear “My Happiness,” “Buttons and Bows” and a very fitting tune, “This is the Moment.” Darling, can I send you some records? Tell me the ones you have so I won’t send some that you already have and I won’t take no for an answer.*

*The folks went to the show tonite in Osceola and Allan and a neighbor buddy went to the show in Columbus and darling I can feel no happier time than I do now, except honey being near you, by writing to you, while the radio is on.*

*As tomorrow is a holiday with mass at seven here, I guess after mass I’ll just observe the day by loafing and thinking of you. I maybe will visit Fr. Ed in the evening, and tell him all the wonderful news about my “little girl.”*

*Well darling it’s been a wonderful day, completely wonderful, after hear your wonderful, pleasing, sweet voice this evening I feel like I’ve got a lot to be sincerely thankful this day. Good nite darling,*

*Loving you,*

*Glenn*

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2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Illinois

November 1, 1948

Darling o’ mine,

I had a letter today and though the day was foggy, the sun was shining for me. Of course, some of the glow from your phone call still left me feeling awfully happy. Your letter though made me especially happy. My darling makes my Mondays happy be getting letters here for me. Thanks!

I’m starting the month off right by writing. There’ll be some changes made and I’ll be a good girl and write often. You’ll be amazed!

Mary, Cil, and I are going down to the “Grill” in the basement of the Nurses Home. We have hot dogs & buns and we’re going to have a midnight snack.

Well, it’s after midnight and we’ve had our “snack.” It’s so good to lie down with a full feeling instead of going on duty. By now you should be fast asleep and having sweet dreams. Maybe you’re dreaming of me! I’ll just think so and be happy. Sunday night, it was so coincidental when you called. I was writing Father Ed a long-promised letter and I had just finished telling Father Ed how handsome you looked in your pictures when the bell rang and Miss Quill (our Matron at the desk) called and said “long distance call for Miss Jaworowski.” I almost broke my neck running down that last flight of stairs!

Haven’t done anything exciting for a while now. My roommate Mary took her State Boards Friday and Saturday and Cil, my other roommate, was too young to take them. She won’t be 21 years old until December 15. Guess we’ll really have to celebrate then. She’ll take her exams on the 13th and 14th of December!

Must close now – the sand man is getting in my eyes. Tomorrow is election day and it’s really a big day for everyone who can vote. I didn’t get myself registered so will miss out this election. Just think honey, the next time elections roll around I’ll be registering under an entirely different name – doesn’t it sound wonderful? I’ll be yours completely then! Sweet dreams my love!

Always yours,

Del

- - - - [letter added on – and mailed the next day]

…guess what I got? And there on my bed was the box with the roses! Sweetheart, I just lost all the tired feeling in me and floated away on my cloud to work the rest of my time. I guess your honey is a very sentimental girl cause she can feel the presence of your love in the room. In fact, I expect to turn around any minute and find myself safe in your arms.

We have two post-polio patients on our floor. They are 17-year-old boys and of course they know I’m engaged. Before they learned my name, they called me Miss Nebraska. Anyway, this morning I told them I got beautiful roses from my boy, they wanted to see your picture. They were very impressed with my boy when I took your picture down this afternoon. Then there’s little Tommy (who is mine, is also a post-polio). Tommy comes down on a cart to see the boys and I have some more fun teasing him. I ‘chisel’ a piece of candy from some patient for him. I almost got him to promise to hug me when there aren’t any other people around. He’s just darling – freckles and turned-up nose! He is paralyzed from the legs down and is getting the *Kenny treatment*.

Well, my darling, I’ll have to close now. My hours for the week are 1 to 9 on Monday and Tuesday. 11 – 7 on Wednesday. Thursday and Friday 7 – 3 – day off on Saturday and 7-3 next Sunday. I guess I’ll fly in Friday night to see you and we can spend all day Saturday together … if wishes were fishes and all came true!

I love you now and forever,

“Del”

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2517 Prairie Ave

Chicago 16, Illinois

Election Night

Nov. 2, 1948 12:30 AM

[small format Thank You note]

Hi honey,

I’m listening to the election returns and getting pretty sleepy doing so. I’m also pretty disappointed in the way their coming along! Dewey isn’t doing too well and neither is the Republican candidate for States Attorney – Coughlan. I went to school with his daughter and I know him quite well. I was at their house a few times for “State dinner” and took care of the man when he was a patient in the hospital. He is a grand person with high ideals!

‘Nuff about the elections for a while – you’re going to think me a regular night hawk after reading the late hour that I stay up these last few nights. I always do when I work a 1 -9 or later.

Darling, I have been wanting to write you the beautiful words to “We’ll Be Together Again.” Earlier this evening I played the record over and over to get the words. The last week or so I’ve been listening to it and after really hearing the words, I didn’t know they were so truly beautiful!

*“Dear in our moments of darkness,*

*Remember the sun has shone,*

*Laugh and the world will laugh with you.*

*Cry and you cry alone.*

*No tears – no fears,*

*Remember there’s always tomorrow,*

*So what if we have to part,*

*We’ll be together again.*

*Your kiss, your smile,*

*Are Memories I’ll treasure forever,*

*So, start thinking with your heart*

*And we’ll be together again.*

*Times when I know you’ll be lonesome,*

*Times when I know you’ll be sad,*

*Don’t let temptation surround you,*

*Don’t let the blues make you bad.*

*Someday, some way,*

*We’ll both have a lifetime before us,*

*For parting is not good-bye,*

*We’ll be together again,*

*We will be together again.”*

With tomorrow’s letter I’ll tell you why; I shall close now. Good night my darling. Aren’t the words just wonderful and inspiring!!

Your very own girl!

Del

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2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Ill

Nov. 3, 1948

Darling,

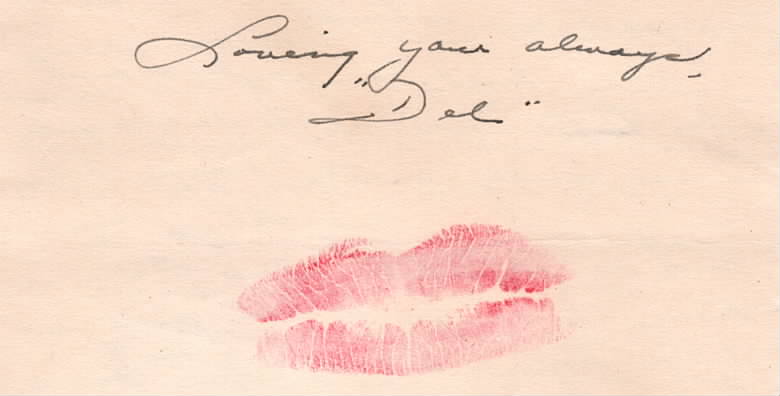
Well sweet, now you know why you only had a one-page letter last night – I ran out of stationary. Now you’ll have to put up with thank you notes until I go shopping.

Worked 11-7 today and then went to the movie in the amphitheater of the hospital. “Tender Years.” It was a real old movie that they resurrected from I don’t know where. It was OK. Mary and I promised the Polio boys we’d wheel them down in their carts. I wasn’t finished with my work at 7:30 (at which time the movie started) so Sister wheeled them down. Mary was late too. Anyway, we had fun teasing the boys or rather they us, that it was going to be a date. Of course, the way it tuned out, we all argued as to who stood who up. They’re such cute kids and they only get discouraged once in a while. It’s pretty sad, really. All sickness is. Sometimes I wonder if we realize how lucky we are to be as healthy etc. Sometimes it’s hard to be impersonal and not think of the patient as an individual and feel his hurt. Instead, we must help them forget their hurt and not sympathize to too great an extent.

I’m tried tonight precious – too sleepy, looks like, to be cheerful. I was really pretty happy today – singing away but things don’t look so cheerful when it’s time for sleep. I had your letter before I went on duty today and that’s one very good thing to start my day off right. X X X - just for you cause I’m very much in love with you.

Loving you always,

“Del”



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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Nov. 3, 1948*

*Dearest Darlin: -*

*I received your wonderful letter again today honey. I guess darling I get a humpity dumpity heart every time I read them, and darling the time and days I hear from you fly faster than the days I don’t hear from you.*

*Say, when I call please take your time down those steps, remember, no one could ever take your place in my heart.*

*I went and voted last night at the little school house here in the country. Truman won the election by a surprise all over the country, although he didn’t carry “little ole” Nebraska. I guess Dewey was a good loser though and asked the people to cooperate with Truman the next four years. So much for the election, I guess I’m on the wrong course, because truly, you’re the real issue, the wonderful companion I want for life.*

*Darling, are you really coming Saturday? If you do honey give “yours truly” a ring where he is to meet his “little girl.” If the weather is foggy and uncertain please don’t fly, please make me that promise now and always.*

*It’s been another nice fall day her honey, sunny and warm. Remember darling I’m your sunshine on those dark and cloudy days.*

*Today I was fencing my cornfields off for my cattle so that they can pick up the few ears of corn that are left in the fields. Everybody around here is through picking corn.*

*Darlin, was it a coincidence or is our taste alike, you and I doing the same thing & listening to the same radio programs though being far apart? Darling it will truly and sincerely be wonderful to think when we’re together in our place, that we can enjoy each other’s companionship and love, and listen to our favorite radio programs together.*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

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2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Illinois

November 4, 1948

Darling boy,

Hello my sweet! How are you tonight? I have been trying to shake off the blues tonight and not doing so well. This is my second attempt at a letter tonight. The first attempt I tore up. I guess I’ll have to go back on my word and not write every night. I shouldn’t write when I feel so bad! I guess I won’t henceforth.

Can’t think of anything exciting to write about except darling I love you so and miss you so terribly! I wish you’d come out and chase the blues away.

Please don’t make it harder by asking me to come out for Thanksgiving. It’s impossible to get away at present and I’ll be lucky to get home for Xmas. But believe me I’m coming if I have to quit working to do it!

Should be able to think of something cheerful to say – but can’t. Even the weather doesn’t help! I haven’t seen a sunny day in Chicago since we took our board exams over a week ago! It has been foggy, cloudy, and drizzly ever since.

Going shopping one of these days and I’m going to pick up some yarn and start knitting. I think that will help! I’ll knit something for you so I can think of you and still be occupied! Won’t tell you what it is – keep you guessing – just to make things interesting.

You asked about sending records. I’m afraid you’ll have to take no for an answer. Most of all honey, I think they’ll get broken enroute. I’ve written in previous letters the names of the records I have. You’ve got me wondering – I’m wondering if you can read the scribbling I do to you. Otherwise I’ll start type-writing my letters to you! That last sentence sounds snippy – but I don’t mean it to sound like that. I’ve often wondered though because I do scribble and sitting in bed and writing on a book in my lap doesn’t help much either.

Saturday is my day off and I think I’ll go to Maywood to my sis Lee’s home. I haven’t been there since I’m back but Lee understood about state boards and wanted me to wait till I finished taking my exams before coming out. This will be my first day off since.

*“Home is where the heart is,*

*And my heart is where my love is,*

*And my love is where you are.”*

The vocalist on Guy Lombard’s orchestra is singing and the words hit me -they’re so true.

The music is so sweet – remember when we listened to Guy Lombardo one evening in your car and just sat in Duncan drinking cokes? All I need is the Chevy and you. I have the coke and the situation would almost be the same!! “… two cheeks just like a rose – so sweet from head to toes – that darling boy of mine!” Such a sweet medley of songs as the Lombardo “sweetest music” orchestra is playing.

I don’t know why but by the time I’ve finished writing a letter to you I always feel so much better! Or is it that I’ve relaxed awhile and feel better for it? Guess not – because I tried before I wrote and it only made me bluer.

I’m not in my own room tonight. One of my friends, Anne, one for the girls, invited me over to write (using her stationery [which has green leaves and purple iris on the side]) but the catch was I had to come down to her room. She’s one of the “elite” members of the class, she lives on the third floor. Me, I have to keep my figure cute – I have to climb four flights of stairs! Anyway, I have written in peaceful quiet. Anne was writing letters too!

Now, my precious of mine, I’m going to say good-night. Remember my darling – I love you – and always will. Sweet dreams sweet hear

Your “blue eyes”

Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Nov. 5, 1948 (Fri. Eve.)*

*[letter is written with a red pencil]*

*Dearest darling: -*

*How is my darling today?*

*I suppose honey I should explain why the red pencil! I have two pens, the first went dry and then the other one. I wanted to write to my “little girl” tonight so desperately, so I though you would forgive me, for this time for using this pencil. I was going to have to have sis get me one today when she was in school, but it slipped my mind somehow. I hope darling, you understand and forgive me, as I know it’s not proper to write to the one you love dearly.*

*It rained here yesterday and again this morning a little. It also was very chilly and windy. As I was working outside most of the day, it really feels cozy to relax by the heat and write to my sweetheart. There is no better way I like to spend an evening than to listen to the radio while I can talk to my darling, by writing while we’re apart for this short time.*

*I’m listening to Eddie Cantor’s show now darling, Dinah Shore is singing with him now or should I say on his show? She sang “Love Somebody,” “There’s Going to Be Some Changes Made,” in 1949 for us darling, remember, ha ha, and “It Had to Be You,” which is one of my favorites, yours too darling? It really puts me in a very sentimental mood darling, after listen to it, because my honey deep down in my heart, knowing what a wonderful, sweet girl I’ve met, “it had to be you” sweetheart.*

*I guess the weatherman stops my darling from flying to Nebr. Or was I just dreaming aloud I mean. If I wasn’t, don’t think you would get by, by staying just one day, oh no, ha ha. Maybe you can come for Thanksgiving honey, I’ll furnish a big fat turkey for the dinner – is it a deal? I suppose darling, your eyes are getting tired of seeing red. [from the light red pencil writing]*

*Sweet dreams and good night honey,*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

*P.S. I love you and forgive me for using the pencil.*

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2517 Prairie Ave

Chicago 16, Ill.

November 6, 1948

Hello my precious,

How’s my honey? In good spirits I hope! I’m feeling fine! Had a day off and spent it sleeping till eleven o’clock this morning. Didn’t go to Maywood to see Lee as I had planned. Things got involved yesterday afternoon and I almost worked last evening. However, while the nuns were having an argument as to whether or not they needed a ‘special,’ I decided to leave the Nurses House and went shopping. (Can’t you tell? How do you like my new “shell” color stationary?) I also bought yarn for what I’m knitting you. I like the colors a lot. Think I should make you sign a written promise that you’ll wear what I make for you! I spent the evening winding yarn etc., reading directions, and finally getting a good start. I’ve been working on my project all afternoon. About five o’clock, I washed my clothes.

I heard the “Hit Parade” for a half hour and got a bang out of the number one tune, “Buttons and Bows.” And now we have “Guy Lombardo” entertaining us with his sweet music.

I’ve had such a lovely lazy day today – it’s been the first one for so long that I’ve enjoyed it a lot. Tomorrow I’ll be rarin’ to go! To make thing just wonderful Mary’s folks were in today (from South Bend, Indiana) and they brought us cookies and apples so I’ve been munching away at a good rate.

How do you like the new song “Slow Boat to China?” I’d love to get you on a slow boat to China – all to myself alone – get you and keep you – (sounds like a bit of heaven, doesn’t it darling?)

Yesterday when I went shopping, Mary and I stopped in a record shop when the other stores closed. We just went in to listen to some songs and landed up buying some records. Mary bought “Fiddle Faddle” by Boston Pops Orchestra. I bought an album of records by Fred Waring. Guess what they are? They’re an album of Christmas carols! Just to remind me and make me feel that Xmas isn’t far away at all. Someone said it was only fifty days – and that isn’t too far away – is it sweetheart? Guess I’ll leave about the twenty-third of December – oh honey I get real happy when I think of seeing you again soon!

By now you know that I’m not coming out in November. If I were, you’d know all about my plans and when to meet me.! I only hope we don’t have a snow storm like we did one year before I came for Xmas. It was the Xmas not very many people got to mass - well, I came out the next day & the roads were open by then.

Honey I wish you could have bite of this very sweet apple I’m eating – mm. Sure is good! Am I making you hungry?

Must be closing for now – have a lot of incidentals to do. Before I close – must tell you of something cute – just turned the radio station to another program since I didn’t like the one that followed Guy Lombardo’s program. So – turned to the next station to hear the announcer say – we’ll have a 10-minute program of Guy Lombardo’s music – as a result I’m still listening to Guy Lombardo!

Loving you always!

Your Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Nov. 7, 1948 (Sun. Eve.)*

*To my darlin: -*

*Last nite I went to a movie in Osceola, “Canon City,” there was no romance what so ever in this picture, it was taken in Colorado and the sequence of the story was true and made into a picture, the story was about a big prison break. It was an interesting picture to see, but I wouldn’t care to see it again.*

*I bought myself a new pen last nite, it’s a ball point, name of it is an “inkograph.” I hope you can read the scribbling it does in my hand. The mind that guides my hand wants it to write and I agree, I love you.*

*This morning I went to 8 o’clock mass at St. Mary’s, it was cloudy and chilly all day. My top coat felt good to have on. The CYO are having an invitational CYO party next Sunday in the hall, for other CYO members of other parishes.*

*As I’m writing I’ve got my radio on as usual, an “Old Gold” in one hand and a pen in the other, [Old Gold is a brand of cigarette – both Glenn and Del were heavy, 2+ pack a day smokers], and your love to keep me warm this chilly evening, also honey your beautiful pictures nearby, that sweet smile and those loving blue eyes of yours darling, tell me all I want to know.*

*Our favorite programs have been on, the Manhattan Merry-Go-Round, it sure didn’t seem like a half an hour program. I’ll bet you’re listening to it also, if you’re not on duty, I’ll bet double then. I also like to listen to the albums of familiar music which is playing two tunes which they have just played that have a lot of meaning in them, “Why do I Love you” and also “Please Say Love isn’t just a Dream!”*

*The Mercy hospital must be a very large place honey, as I understand it, being you mentioned that you went to a movie in the hospital’s theater. As for records I want to send to you, I haven’t received an answer yet.*

*The folks and sis went to the John Kresha place this evening, so I am alone writing to my darling.*

*Always yours, Glenn*

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November 8, 1948

“*Because God made thee mine, I’ll cherish thee.*

*Through light and darkness,*

*Through all time to be –*

*And pray this love may make our love divine –*

*Because God made thee mine!”*

My darling boy,

Happy second anniversary! I hope today you had a very happy day. It was a red-letter day for me! I enjoyed your letter very much! Sorry though that you felt so badly about making the letter red. Why darling, if there was no other way out and if it meant either – or – I am glad you chose wisely and wrote.

I’m very sleepy and will write tomorrow – for tonight I’ll just tell you how glad I am that two months ago I said yes! Thank you for being such a dear and for giving me a love as beautiful that I wonder if I am deservant (sic) of it!

Good night my precious darling –

Always yours,

“Del”

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2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Ill.

November 9, 1948

Dearest,

I’m sorry, but last night I got terribly sleepy and just couldn’t write any more. Tonight, when I got off duty I decided to write first and then get sleepy knitting. Last night when I started your letter I was alone. Then the girls came home full of chatter. I couldn’t concentrate enough to write so I decided to knit. By the time all was quiet, I got pretty sleepy. But then sometimes a short note is better than none at all, hm?

I have been working 1-9:30 this week. My day off is Thursday. Saturday and Sunday I work 7:30 -4. The hospital has changed the hours and now instead of starting the day at 7 we start at 7:30. The patients get a little more sleep. Speaking of patients, I must tell you about the coke parties. The two post-polio boys (I have told you of them before) have been treating us to cokes and sandwiches that their folks bring from home. Anyway, when I work till 9:30 our party begins after I’m off. Tonight, we had cakes and I jabbered with them until after ten (all about Nebraska)! Last night we had a special feature. Another patient, a seminarian who was very close to having a nervous break-down, was with us. He could play a guitar and sing cowboy songs. He was really very good. It was his last night and since I’d never heard him sing before, he came in and we all had a gay time. The two kids (only 17) were good for him and helped him get his mind off himself and in turn he was good company for them after he got over some of his nerves for he would entertain them with his guitar and singing. Of course, we had to be quick about it all – and with the door closed there wasn’t too much noise. You see Glenn, these three patients I told you of weren’t really sick. Joe the seminarian has been studying too hard – he’ll be fine after he has a good rest. The polio boys aren’t sick anymore – they’re left with paralyzed legs. With the Kenny Treatment, they may be able to walk again. They need a different kind of care. They can’t brood too much about the future – they’re present has to be a happy situation. All day long they are being wrapped in hot packs and later put in hot tub baths. They have physio-therapists taking care of these treatments all day long even if they are on our floor. They are so happy to have the nurses cheer them up in the evening so once in a while it’s okay to spend an extra half hour when I’m off duty. I was teasing them and saying they’d have write you a letter. They agreed – if I wouldn’t censor it. Course I keep saying it has to pass censorship and that’s as far as it goes.

From this letter you probably don’t think we have any sick patients. We do and I don’t neglect them for a minute. That’s just it, the polio kids don’t see much of me at all during my hours on duty.

The hospital is large. [Mercy was founded in 1852, has 400+ beds and was Chicago’s first teaching hospital] The theater (John B Murphy Amphitheater) doesn’t look like a theater. It has the seating capacity etc. but it is unadorned. Years ago, a great surgeon (after whom it was named) used to hold lectures and clinics in it. At a clinic, he would operate and explain his method and technique to hundreds of medical students and doctors. The place isn’t beautiful – its old. But it has the reputation for having a high standard grade of physicians and surgeons on its staff. It always had and still has this high grading.

‘Nuff said about hospitals, patients and stuff. I hardly feel like you are enjoying all this chatter. You can always turn me off when you get tired. Isn’t that a nice thought?

It has been raining here – since Monday. I’m sure we must have enough rain by now. The forecast is for colder weather tomorrow – it’s supposed to reach 0º tomorrow. Glad I have a nice warm coat to bundler up in!

I’ve been writing steadily for an hour now – hope you can read it! I must get to my knitting soon. Gee, I do hope you’ll like what I’m making you! As yet I don’t have your written promise that you’ll wear what I’m making. You’ll like it though, I’m sure.

As you know by the letter I wrote on Sunday that I listened to our favorite Sunday programs – oh, I guess I didn’t write Sunday night. I spent all Sunday evening knitting away and thinking of my darling. I did listen to the programs! How do you like the song “My Darling?” Really pretty, I think!

Last night the kids brought in some old juke box records. They got them from some friend. Some of them are badly worn, but “My Desire” and “Because” are still pretty good. They are all old songs “Four Leaf Clover” and a few other novelty tunes.

My but it has been wonderful to get another letter. I look in my mail box twice every day (we have two mail deliveries every day) and some days I don’t expect any mail and when I get an unexpected I’m always very, very happy believe me. Today was one of those days – you see since I had a letter yesterday I didn’t expect one today. My oh my, your ‘lil girl was happy when she got it!

Yours always!

Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Nov. 9, 1948*

*To my darling: -*

*It’s been cloudy and chilly here today. It even snowed for about ten minutes. It disappeared about as fast as it fell, I guess it’s a reminder that more will fall. Let’s dream of a white Christmas, shall we? Christmas doesn’t seem far away for me either, it’s because I have a wonderful blue-eyed girl, keeping me very happy.*

*Darling, I think the sisters are working you too many hours, tell them I said so, on second thought, please don’t.*

*Today I got up about 7:30, my usual time in the winter when it is too cold to do anything urgent. Today I put some of my machinery away for the year, they have to be greased or oiled so as to prevent them from getting rusty. I also let the Chevy know winter is coming by putting some Prestone [anti-freeze] in the radiator. Every time the Chevy and I go for a ride, we miss you so much it hurts.*

*Bob Hope is on now with his show. He was talking about the election and telling the favorite tune of each candidate. I thought they were pretty good, for Dewey’s: “Say It Isn’t So.” For President Truman, “It’s Magic,” and for Wallace, “A Slow Boat to China.” Do you agree?*

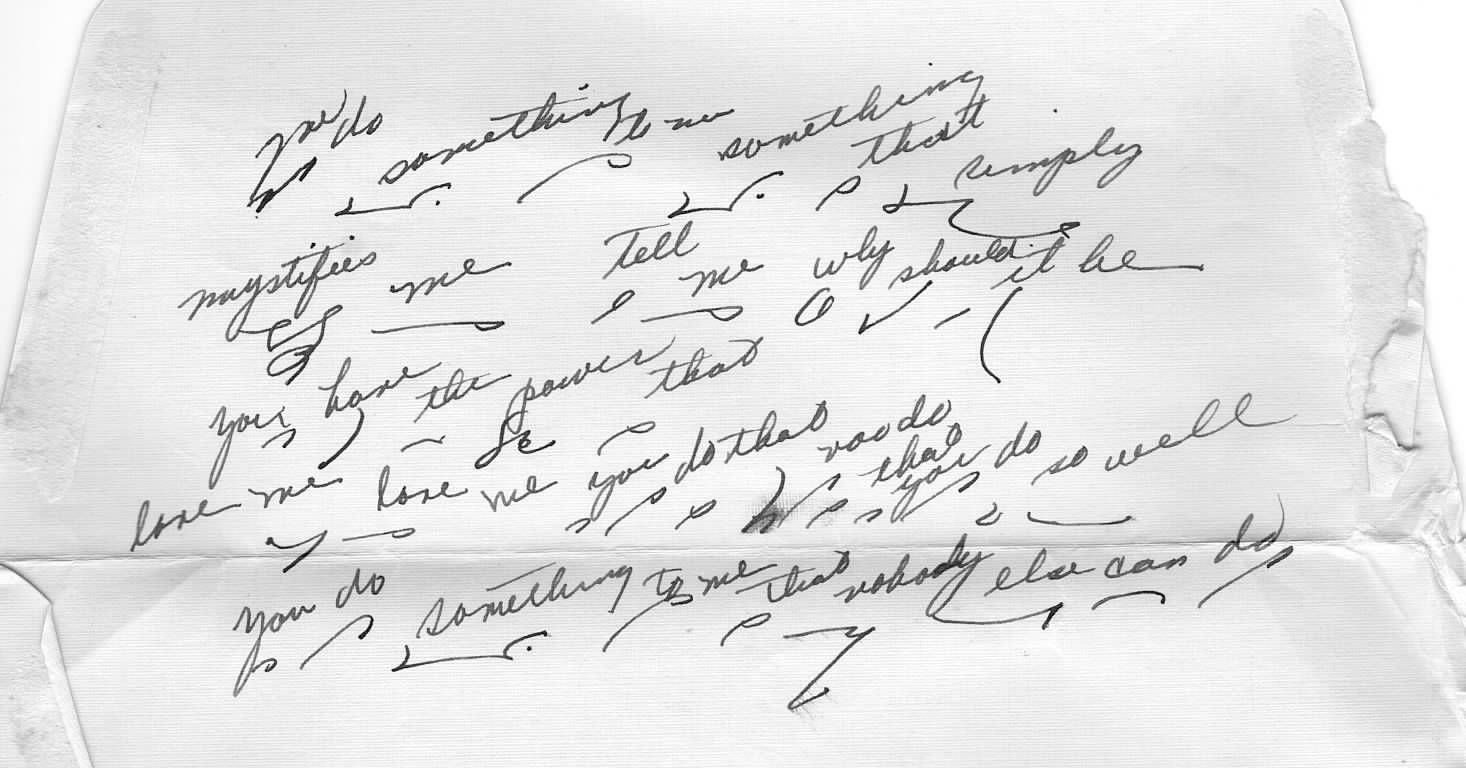
*Guy Lombardo’s orchestra’s music has been my favorite orchestra for a long, long time, but now it will be “our” favorite orchestra from this day on. Did you know honey that Guy L. and I have something in common? He has the sweetest music on this side of heaven and I have the sweetest, dearest, “little girl” on this side of heaven.*

*So, my darling is knitting something just for me. I’ll bet it is a sweater, want to bet? I promise honey I wear it, just for you, my love.*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

*[Inside the envelope flap is written: “You do something to me, something that simply mystifies me. Tell me why would it be you have the power that love me love me you do that now do that you do so well You do something to me that nobody else can do.” It’s written oddly…*



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2517 Prairie Ave.

Chicago 16, Ill

November 11, 1948

My darling,

Hello sweet. Guess what? I’m in Maywood tonight! I finally made it here on my day off. Have had a grand day of it! I got here early this afternoon and will leave sometime tomorrow morning. Margie is the baby – she’s a year and a half old. She’s just a beautiful doll, honest honey! You ought to hear her talk!! Just like a woman – she makes herself understood! Tommy is three – also beautiful and very sweet, “Aunt Delphine, where do you live? How did you come?” He’s full of questions – very friendly! Mary, age 5, has a bad cold and wasn’t in very good spirits today. Andy has a birthday tomorrow – he’s the oldest. He will be seven. We went shopping for a gift for him tonight. We got a real cute gift for him. It’s a little “one horse town” (like Duncan – are you smiling?) on a table. There are driveways and two cars that are run by magnets under the table. The effect is that the car is being driven around without any assistance. Its real cute. We also got some cute books for him to read.

Today was the 17th anniversary of my Mom’s death. I got up early and went to mass. I couldn’t have stayed at the Nurse’s Home on a bet. Too many memories – I wanted to get away from things and forget. This is the best place, believe me. You don’t spend a quiet moment till the children are all in bed.

Lee is making midnight snacks and I’m getting hungry. The coffee smells mighty good. Wish you were here with me! Am looking at your picture and it helps to bring you a little closer to me! Am sitting in a big easy chair with my billfold open to page 1. I miss you terribly much my darling! I did some Xmas shopping also tonight and bought a few toys for the nieces and nephews! Feels festive in the stores with Santa Claus sitting there talking to the kiddies. I almost went up and asked him to send me to you for a month before Xmas! Bet he could do it!

My brother-in-law Ed thought he was sharp when I asked for some stationary. He gave me a whole package of it and asked if that would be enough to start on! Guess I won’t use it all!!

Your own ‘lil girl,

Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Nov. 11, 1948*

*To my sweetheart: -*

*Little old man winter was here again today. It was really chilly today and a few snowflakes fell. I worked outside most of the day and I guess I’m getting used to the cold weather.*

*This morning I helped Allan load a truck full of furniture for a lady by Silver Creek, who was moving to a town south west of Hastings.*

*This afternoon I put a half-moon shaped cab on my tractor, it encloses the motor of the tractor and has a windshield on. It makes it more comfortable to operate the tractor in zero weather. Your guy believes in being comfortable working outside in the cold. I don’t mind the cold weather though, because I got your warm love to keep me warm.*

*I went over to see Fr. Ed last nite, but Fr. wasn’t home. I think Fr. was playing cards over at Uncle John’s place as they had a lot of lights on, so then I went to Osceola to a show, the name of it was “California” with Barbara Stanwyk and Ray Milland, it was very good and more pretty, as it was in color.*

*I’ve got the radio on honey, but I’m not having much luck finding any good music, about the only music I’ve been able to get is western or cowboy singing from a station in Texas, it seems like on Thursday evening most of the programs are theater stories.*

*How about joining me, I’m enjoying a glass of milk now while I’m writing. I guess I’m the kind that has to snack before “hitting the hay.” Are you in the habit too? If you are, it will be fun to share the habit with you in the near future.*

*As today is Armistice Day, we didn’t get our mail, as rural carriers do not go. I really miss not having anything to read, most of all though I would have had a sweet little letter from you if the mail man would of went. I’ll have patience and wait till in the morning.*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

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2517 Prairie Ave

Chicago 16, Ill

November 14, 1948

My darling,

Hello sweet. How are you? Getting all set for the winter I bet! The air is so brisk that it wakes a person up when I run around the front way to the hospital instead of taking the long way there through the tunnel.

So, you want to lay a bet about my making you a sweater! Well, maybe you’d win and maybe you’d lose! Anyway, whatever it is, I’m working diligently on it! (I thought I filled my pen – guess I didn’t! [previous paragraph was getting lighter and lighter] Will write with Mary’s pen!) Back to the knitting – I’m sure you’ll like it – at least the color scheme!

‘Nuff of that before I let you know what it is. It’s hard keeping a secret from you – but you’ll know eventually so it isn’t really keeping a secret.

I have been a bad little girl about writing. It’s not that I haven’t thought of you – because I’m always doing that. Friday night I had a really busy evening on duty. More things popped! Between one of the patients running a 103º temp to another whose intravenous fluids kept coming out of her vein (and her veins are next to impossible to find) to another patient aged 89 years who went up to surgery at 10:30 that evening. I was supposed to be off at 9:30 and didn’t get off until 11 PM.

Last night we had company and a regular job-fest discussing everything you can imagine (except anyone in particular).

This evening I have been knitting away for ages. Now all are asleep and its quiet on the eastern front. I don’t have to get up in the am so it’s okay to be up late.

Hope you’re having a gay time at the CYO gathering at Fr. Ed’s tonight. I’m sure you will. Tell me all about it. Gosh, I wish I were there with my best beau!

Thinking of Nebraska reminds me – I spoke to Sr. today about a Xmas vacation. She was pretty furious that I should think of it. Get someone to replace you and its okay, she said. I told her I’d try (but its next to impossible). Anyway, I told her I was going any way. She didn’t like that at all. I’m going to get my reservation and ticket soon and set a definite date. I’d die of loneliness if I couldn’t be with you Xmas.

I enjoyed that Bob Hope joke about the elections. If you heard the “Hit Parade” yesterday, you heard “Slow Boat to China.” There are some lovely tunes that I heard over Manhattan Merry-Go-Round tonight. Wish we could have heard them together!

Give the Chevy a pat and tell it I miss the rides as much as the two of you miss having me!

Your own sweetheart,

“Del”

P.S. 40 more days till I see you!!

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Nov. 15, 1948*

*Have you been wondering why I haven’t wrote to you for a few days, I’ve been picking pretty late in the evenings because the weather has been too nice to last, so we worked late. I’m sure you’ll forgive me and understand the circumstances, please.*

*Last night Sis and I went to the CYO meeting at St. Mary’s. Fr. Ed had Benediction at 6:30. There were about eighty members present from surrounding parishes. There was a three-piece orchestra present from Seward, a piano player, an accordionist and a fiddler, they were very good for a small group. There was a man from York who was teaching the boys and girls how to square dance, I even got a lesson or two, although I’m not too anxious to learn to square dance, although I do like to watch somebody else do the square dance.*

*They also danced the “flying Dutchman” and modern dancing later. The orchestra had to leave early, which isn’t the custom at a dance. I guess the CYO member from Seward asked them to come, and then had to leave early because they had families of their own and had to go to work early in the morning. Then Fr. brought his record player to the hall, this fellow from York brought some of his records along. He even had the record “Buttons and Bows” with Gene Autry, have you heard Gene Autry’s recording of it? It’s No 1 on the hit parade now, have you heard the novelty tune the “Corn Belt Symphony?” If I remember correctly I believe “A Slow Boat to China” was number three on the hit parade, I agree with you, it was a very pretty tune and has sweet words too. Before I forget, Rosie asked me if I asked you about a picture of yourself, which she says you promised you would send her, I don’t remember if I wrote about it before or not darling, I guess she thinks a lot of you too.*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

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2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Illinois

November 16, 1948

Dearest of mine,

Its early and I’m writing before I’m sleepy or something. In fact, I broke a date just to write to you! In case your excited (about the date) it was with the dentist. I lost my courage just because it’s raining out. My teeth are in a terrible state. I haven’t seen a dentist once since I’m in training! Guess you’ll be hearing that I’m going to the dentist frequently. I think I’ll call and make an appointment for the morning since I don’t go on duty till 3:30 tomorrow.

The phonograph is playing my Christmas carols and they’re very lovely! Honey I wish we were listening to them together and you were holding my hand – and we could feel the spirit that is Christmas, together. Oh honey, I love the Christmas Season so much! “Silent Night” – “O Holy Night” – and it does mean so much to be with the one you love then. I’ll be there – so help me!

Your letter was very, very sweet yesterday. It helps so much to know you’d like to chase away my “blues!” Your letters help do that, truly they do!

Am going to go to supper now – X X till I come back. Miss me till then? Hmm?

I’ve been gone a long time, honey… we decided to go out to eat later in the evening so I started my knitting. Now I’m back and ready for bed – its 10 PM. I’m real full! Had a real good meal about 8:30! Speaking of having “snacks” before going to bed, that’s me! Maybe my appetite will get curbed one of these days! Yes, it’ll be fun to share a midnight snack with my darling boy. Of course, the hour will no doubt be earlier. (My pen is getting persnickety for its old age – I just scolded it and told it who I was trying to write to and see – it perked up right away! [running out of ink again])

Do you listen to the Chesterfield Supper Club program at 10 PM? We listen to it almost every night (when we’re not on duty, that is?)

This pen – made me forget what I was going to write – just give me a few minutes and I’ll be all set. Oh yes, last Friday my silverware came! It’s just beautiful darling, and I can hardly wait until we have our “first meal” with it! Won’t it be wonderful sweetheart? Sorta just can’t wait sometimes!

Once you asked if it really was windy in the Windy City. You should be here tonight! The wind almost knocked us over walking over from “Pops.” Yep, that lake breeze really gets strong. We are only about six blocks from the lake here.

Your very own,

Del

P.S. 38 more days.

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2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Illinois

November 18, 1948

My darling,

Hello sweet! It was so very, very wonderful to hear you talk to me. Thank you so very much for calling! It really was a surprise. You see I had been trying to get an order for a medication and the operator couldn’t get hold of the intern for me. So, when the nurse came looking for me and said “you have a very important call” – I said “Who, me?” then she said, “Yes, Nebraska’s on the phone!” Darling, I just dashed down as fast as I could. When the operator said “Columbus, Nebraska” I thought maybe it was Father Ed. That’s why I asked who it was. My heart kept hoping it was you! I don’t know if you noticed the interruption but while I was in the middle of talking to you, the intern came down and when he heard me talking he said – “important phone call there, huh? – I’ll be back later.” Since my patient needed the medicine badly and their ‘later’ is hours, I stopped talking for a second and said “sedative” and showed him the chart. If you heard any funny noise in the phone, the intern leaving made the noise like a kiss into the phone just to be funny or something. Boy, was I flying high after the phone call. I was so very happy sweetheart!

Today was a very happy day indeed. I guess I was still excited about the phone call. Anyway, things went so well today. Then this afternoon there were photographers from all of the three Chicago papers on our floor. Each of us nurses posed for one of the papers. They didn’t come to take our pictures, but of one of the patients. She was a bride for two days when she got polio. She is having her convalescence on our floor and is doing real well. She makes for a good story so they decided to print stuff about her in the newspapers. I doubt if the picture will come out at all but if it does, I’ll send it to you.

Then dear, I finally called the dentist today for an appointment. I guess they don’t have office hours on Wednesday because I couldn’t reach him yesterday at all. Anyway, he couldn’t take care of me till Monday at 7 PM. I feel a little relieved because I know it’s going to be a painful process and I dread the thought of it!

Tomorrow is my day off (supposedly). I’m going to do some private duty from 3:30 to 11:30 However, it won’t be like working on the floor.

Hasn’t this month gone by fast so far? I can’t think where the time has gone or what I’ve done but it’s the 18th already! Isn’t it wonderful? Soon it’ll be Thanksgiving and then Christmas and I’ll be home in Nebraska.

All yours,

Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Nov. 18, 1948 (Thurs. Eve.)*

*To my darling: -*

*After I talked to you honey, I went over to the C.A. [Columbus Auditorium] to see the wedding march. Well what do you suppose happened, Tillie (the bride) asked me if I wouldn’t be in the march with her sister, and well I couldn’t refuse her because she was nearby, so I did. Darling, all the time during the march my thoughts were of you, in my mind I made believe you were the one I was marching and dancing [with] all evening. The couple had a nice day for their wedding day. This afternoon it started snowing here and the ground and building are covered with a blanket of snow. A little birdie told me it is snowing where my darling is.*

*Yesterday I hired a man with a bull dozer to push over some trees, so that the REA can put up the wires to the place. Darling I sure wish you would have been here to watch him push them over. Some of the trees were thirty to forty feet high and three feet in diameter. The work he done in seven hours would have taken two men a week to do with a hand saw.*

*Today my landlord came over and we cleaned out some long tree branches which extend out to the road.*

*Fr. Ed wants Sis to come over to his place Friday night to type out parts for a play the CYO is to put on at Christmas time. Darling I do hope and pray it doesn’t inconvenience you too much to get away from your work. I guess I just have to come out to be with you, if you didn’t. I just couldn’t take it to be away from you at Christmas time. I shouldn’t be talking this away, because I just know I’ll soon be able to hold you in my arms, to wish my darling a lifetime of Merry Christmas’s. The Christmas season atmosphere is beginning here, as they started playing Christmas songs on the radio. Tonight, I’ve no favorite program I like to listen to, but I’m enjoying myself writing to you and sipping on a coke, may I open one for you? I will be doing it for my – in a short while.*

*Sis is trying to play a harmonica and she is more interested in playing it than I am in playing the piano.*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

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2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Illinois

November 20, 1948

Darling o’ mine

I hear you snowed out in Nebraska? Or is it further west in Nebr.? I envy you the snow. We haven’t seen any yet. Though I don’t like the cold weather too much, I love the look of snow. I always have.

I’ve been working 3-11 last few days and I don’t seem to get to write when I work that shift. However, I’ll be back to working normal hours again this week. I have Wednesday off and 3-11 on Thanksgiving that way I can go home before the big day and have dinner with the family. We are working Thanksgiving Day but we are being payed “double time.” That’s not bad really. I wish we could have our Thanksgiving together. I have so much to be grateful for this year and it all adds up to you.

I am working split hours today – 7:30-12:30 and 4-7:30. Now I am off on my afternoon hours and I thought I’d write since I miss you so. I have some lovely music on – its semi-classical – gay and sweet at the same time. Restful – and after a hectic morning of work its nice.

I shall enclose the picture I promised. I guess it made the paper – surprisingly enough. I was sure I broke the camera for the man. You can really see what our caps look like. Cut cap, huh? The rest of the picture isn’t too clear but the girl in white is your little girl.

Just lit up a cigarette and if I use my imagination I can almost see us spending a lazy Sunday afternoon. I assure you I wouldn’t be writing letters then.

I finished half of my knitting Friday night. In two more weeks, I plan to finish the project I have started. I do hope you’re not disappointed. I also hope it fits. I guess it had better fit or I shall be sad. It is colorful enough to look good under the Xmas tree if it doesn’t fit. Don’t be frightened about the colors, I’m sure you’ll like the colors at least.

Must close for now and get ready to go back to work.

Hi! I’m back again and in time for the Manhattan Merry-Go-Round! Well, everything went along fine. You know lately, just hate going on duty. Often on days like that, when I do get to work, things compensate for the efforts and I’m glad I went on. Someone will be exceptionally grateful for something done for them – and then I feel like a heel about not wanting to go out and things are rosy again. Oh, I must tell you about our 89-year-old granny who was operated on a week ago Friday. Tonight, I had her strolling in the hall. She was weak but full of spunk and has the will to get well. She is just a little darling.

They’re playing such lovely songs – I hate to leave you but just thinking that in 33 more days I’ll be seeing you fills me with joy and happiness and guess what, it’s raining out and it doesn’t even dampen my joys!

Yours always,

Del

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*Osceola, Neb.*

*Nov. 21, 1948*

*Dearest Darling: -*

*Darling, we really have been snowed in here, the train and I mean the mail train doesn’t come in yet, it’s been four days now.*

*I sure miss hearing from you, I wrote you a letter darling a few nights ago and I haven’t mailed it yet, as the mailman didn’t go by. So, you’ll get two letters when I mail them.*

*It really didn’t snow very much, but there was wind with the snow, and it drifted quite a bit. Some of the drifts are six to eight feet high. It snowed some again last night, the only consolation of the ordeal was that it didn’t get very cold. Most of the roads are open now, I went to late mass this morning in Osceola and this afternoon Allan and I went hunting. As we had only one gun, I drove the car and Allan used the gun: we got two pheasants. We had them for supper tonight. I wish you were with me to enjoy some of it, as they were young and tender. Have you ever ate any pheasants? If you haven’t, you can look forward to it some day with me.*

*Have been listening to our favorite Sunday evening program darling, the Manhattan Merry-Go-Round? Doesn’t a “Slow Boat to China” sound prettier every time you hear it? They also played my request for you honey, did you like it?*

*Have you heard the song, (I don’t know if its new or old) “P.S. I Love You?”*

*The folk and Sis went to the show tonight, Abbot and Costello were playing. So, I am spending a quiet, wintry like evening, with you on my heart, and also enjoying the radio.*

*Sis and I didn’t get to Fr. Ed’s Friday as the roads were blocked with snow. Fr. was visiting a priest from out of town Thursday, Sis was saying. I’m hoping “Uncle Sam”[mail] gets through tomorrow just for you and I, if possible.*

*Always yours*

*Glenn*

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Nov. 23, 1948*

*I had two letters yesterday and one today darling, they were very sweet, just what I needed to keep from getting lonesome, especially after the naughty trick old man winter surprised me with.*

*Darling, that’s a very sweet picture of you; honestly, I’m proud of the achievement of success you are accomplishing while we are temporarily apart. Just to think, of the many thousands of people who have seen the picture of you, they are all unknowingly looking at the most wonderful girl of my heart, my happiness.*

*It misted here for most of the day and it a little warmer than usual, as some of the snow melted away. I went to a farm sale close to Duncan, a farmer who built a home in Columbus, sold his farm and is now retiring.*

*Tomorrow Donald Cerny is having a farm sale, he is moving to Osceola, I guess he has asthma pretty bad and can’t stand the dust working in the soil.*

*Sis kept pestering me tonight to play checkers with her, but after I told her I was going to write to Del, she understood clearly when I said, NO. We generally do play four or five evenings and I can honestly say I win the majority of them, although she is getting tougher to beat. I believe I asked you once, whether you played checkers; if not honey, in turn for teaching me to play gin rummy, I’ll teach you to play checkers, as it is a fair deal.*

*I met Fr. Ed yesterday as he was coming back from Duncan, he said he went there to get some groceries. He wants Sis and I to come over tomorrow evening, Sis is to finish typing out the parts for the CYO play.*

*I’ve the radio playing as usual, Bob Hope has just went off the air. They played “Buttons and Bows” and “Slow Boat to China” which are two of our favorites. Now Fibber [McGee] and Molly are on with their usual troubles, they also played my secret request to you.*

*Darling, although we’ll be apart Thanksgiving, in one way we’ll be together in our thoughts, in my whole life, precious, this year I have you, the most wonderful, the most sincere, the kindest blue eyes and the warmest lips in the world to love and kiss, “till the day I die. I not only have God to thank for giving you to me to love, precious, but also you – thanks for falling in love with me, I only hope and pray that I’m deserving of such the sincere, wonderful love you possess.*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

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2517 Prairie Ave

Chicago, Ill

November 24, 1948

Darling o’ mine –

Hello honey! Here’s my snowed-in little bear? Have you hibernated for the winter time? I hope you plan on coming out of your little nest in a month.

I had a bad day Monday because there was no letter – but Tuesday noon it was worse yet! I felt like crying and I couldn’t understand. By Tuesday noon when I came off duty and found a letter from you I was so happy and so ashamed of myself for doubting that you wouldn’t write unless you were snowed in. But it had been almost a whole week since I had heard from you – and darling, I was sort of desperate. Then I had a heard of the snow in Kansas but I didn’t think our part of Nebraska got it. Will you forgive me honey? I’ll know in the future that real long silences from you aren’t intentional.

I have only a few minutes – I am at Esse’s today and I’m going out with my Sis and the children. Delphine’s back from school so I have to start getting ready. We are planning on leaving by four o’clock. I am having such a good time here. Delphine just said, “What a long letter – who’s it to?” I just grinned at her and she said, “Oh, I know, to your lover.” (Cross my heart – that’s what she said.) Cute, huh?

Oh, I got my pictures that my brother-in-law took of me. I may be able to talk them out of their set so I can send them to you with this letter. Keep your fingers crossed honey. They’re not very good but a couple of the poses are unusual so you may enjoy them.

I have five more minutes allotted to me and then I’ll have to finish because I want to mail this on my way.

Darling, I thought it was so cute what you said about waiting like a boy for Santa Claus. It’s a good way to describe the feeling deep inside. Do you know that from today it will be only 30 more days till I’ll be with you?

The kids are bothering me – “did you write my sweetheart someplace” – and Ricky saying “are you writing honey bunny?”

I do love you so very much and I’m counting the minutes until I see you! Bye for now, my very own sweetheart and I hope you don’t get lost in a snow drift – remember that you have to be there for me.

Always your own

Del [lipstick kiss]

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[Thanksgiving 1948 was November 25th]

2517 Prairie Ave.

Chicago 16, Ill

Nov 25, 1948 (midnight!)

Darling,

- Just a few lines to tell you that I have been very lonely for my darling today. I missed you so very much that I didn’t think I could go through my eight hours of smiling (as I call my floor duty). Somehow or other I got through and because I have – I feel better. My sweetheart – it’s terrible being away from you on the holidays. I’m so glad I shan’t be at Xmas time. We’ll see how much will power I have – I’m going down sometime this week to get my ticket and reservation. I’ll only stay a week, but we’ll make all of it count.

Guess I’m too sleepy to wire more – will finish tomorrow.

Nov. 26, 1948 (11 PM)

Hi sweet! Here I am back again with two fillings in my teeth! I’ve been to see the dentist this week. Have ironed a uniform since then and am now waiting to take a bath.

Guess I haven’t written since Wednesday afternoon. My honey has been neglected again! Not really though, because you’re upper-most in my mind. I keep thinking of you all the time. In your letter today, you said “thank you” for loving you. Sweetheart, the thanks is all on my side – thank you for being so patient and waiting and loving me. Guess you knew that we were meant for each other. It always did take me a long time to learn things. But when I learn something it sticks a long time – and I’ve really learned (the hard way perhaps) how much we mean to each other. Being married to you is going to be simply wonderful. We’ll have such fun doing things – just the two of us!

I know how to play checkers, but am not good at it at all. It will take a lot of practice to “beat” you. Do you ever play Chinese checkers? They’re fun for a variety. And then there’s gin rummy. Of course, I’ll have to brush up on the rules of the game. I have played it for almost a year now. Our long winter evenings will fly by – really honey. Most often I wish I didn’t have to wait till May. May is our Blessed Mother’s month and I’m sure she’ll shower her blessings on our life to be! So May it will be!

Must go take my bath now – the water is going! X X Mm – I’m back – smelling sweet and fresh and feeling good for myself.

Wednesday evening, I met Loretta around her neighborhood. Esse was going to her “in-laws” for supper and I didn’t want to go there. I didn’t think I’d be lucky enough to catch Loretta with a planned evening. I was lucky though. We had a wonderful jab-fest. I haven’t seen her since I graduated in June. Loretta’s the girl friend that is going to be in our wedding party. It was fun just talking anyway!

Today I’ve been very sleepy – it was so warm in the building that I could hardly wake up. As yet we haven’t had our first snow fall. It has snowed all around Chicago and missed us somehow. The wind is cold and penetrating though. Wish you could come and keep me warm when it’s cold – protect me?

Well – its after midnight and if I don’t want to walk around in a daze all day tomorrow I had better get some shut eye!

Your blue-eyed darlin’, Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Nov. 26, 1948*

*Dearest darling: -*

*Hello sweetheart, how is my blue-eyes today?*

*Did you have a nice Thanksgiving darling, turkey and all the trimmings?*

*Folks and I went to David City, had sort of a family reunion at Dad’s sister Rose’s [Hilger] home, we had a turkey for dinner there, my Aunt asked me why I didn’t bring you along, as she thought you were here, so I had to explain to her that you went back home to take her exams.*

*It makes me very happy to know that you understood why you didn’t hear from me last week, I felt blue and lonely from the suspense too. Remember I promised you I would write two or three times a week and if you don’t, remember “old man winter” is probably up to his old tricks. I do hope he doesn’t get too mean at Christmas time, when we’re together… let’s hope together, shall we?*

*Fr. Ed came over for a while Wednesday evening and he brought his flash camera along and took several pictures, maybe if some of them are very good, I’ll get the negatives from Fr. Ed and sent you some of the pictures. Sis has been using his typewriter, typing out the parts in the play, “Christmas Crusader.” Fr. Ed said he was spending Thanksgiving Day and dinner with Fr. George in Duncan.*

*I had a letter from you today, those pictures of you are very natural and cute, I will keep them, and some day you can put them in a picture album, is it a deal?*

*Fr. Ed was very happy and surprised when I showed him the clipping of the polio bride and you. It was very nice here Thanksgiving and today, the snow is melting away, although the roads are not as bad as expected, after all the snow we had. Around Omaha, it didn’t even snow, I guess we had their share here.*

*Alois Shemek finally got his car fixed and came over last nite when I was ready to write to you – he wanted me to go along to the show with him, so I promised myself nothing could interfere with writing to my little darling this evening.*

*Yours Always*

*Glenn*

*P.S. Thanks for those “red” kisses, I kiss every one of them.*

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Nov. 29, 1948*

*Dearest Darling: -*

*Sunday and today have been warm and sunny, the snow is about melted down now, are you hoping for a white Christmas, when you come to Nebr.? I mean, I do like to see snow at Christmas time, but not much as it was a few years ago, which I know you remember, right?*

*Today I was hauling hay for Dad’s cattle and fixing some fence around his cornfields, most everybody around here wasn’t prepared for such a snow storm this early, there is still a few fields of corn yet to be harvested.*

*Last night I went to a show in Osceola, the picture was definitely out of season, but it was very pretty in color, “Easter Parade,” with Judy Garland and Fred Astaire, I supposed you’ve seen this picture about a year ago. I’ve been thinking, I can’t remember the last time we been together to go to a movie in Osceola.*

*I happen to be listening to my car radio just before dinner today, and I heard a number dedicated to Rosie Kontor by her sister on her 18th birthday. If I remember it correctly, it was over the Columbus’ station with an accordion player, playing modern and polka music.*

*Sis was over to Fr. Ed’s yesterday to a CYO meeting, I guess they were all given parts in the Christmas play. Sis said Fr. had a part for you and me, but Phyllis told Fr. that you wouldn’t be back by Dec. 21st. Fr. was going to mail your part to you. Sis said we were to play the part of a married couple in one play, I suppose it would be a lot of fun being in a play again, especially with you. But I believe I would have to read the play before I would take a part in any play, wouldn’t you, just to be on the safe side?*

*I’ve the radio playing while I’m writing to you, but I haven’t been able to get any good music on yet, but I suppose eventually I well. Is the tune “Until” a new tune or is it an old tune just being revived?*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

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Mercy Hospital Stationary

Undated but mailed Nov. 30, 1948

Darling –

Just a line to tell you that I’m still here – haven’t gone anywhere – but have been busy. I’ll write you more in the PM tomorrow.

Must let you share one joy with me before I close – I got my ticket and reservation on the streamliner for December 22nd. I will leave on the PM train on that day and will be due in Columbus on December 23rd about 2 AM – eight hours later. Wonderful, I’m very happy about it.

Your blue-eyed gal,

Del

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2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Ill

Nov. 30, 1948

Honey mine –

Hello, how are you? I’m not much in a letter-writing mood – and by the way this pen started out, it wasn’t either. [light ink] However, we both know we can’t disappoint “the boy” out in Nebraska so we’re going to town writing!

Very fittingly, the radio is playing “Sentimental Journey” – I was just going to write about my trips! (Like the song? It’s one of my all-time favorites.) I’ve been very happy ever since I got my train ticket yesterday. I had to go see Sr. Matilda again cause I’m leaving a day sooner than I planned. However, I can work things out. I won’t take a day off one of the next two weeks and then I’ll take it on the 23rd of December. The 24th and 25th will be my two days off for that week – the 26th to the 29th will be the days I’ll be docked off for on my pay. With my fast train bringing me in the morning of the 30th I’ll be able to work 3:30 to 11:30 that night. I suppose that sounds a little complicated, but it’s not. Instead of arriving just the day before Xmas, I’ll be in at 2 AM on the 23rd. Doesn’t it sound heavenly? Just 22 more days!!

The time will just fly for I have gobs of things to do yet – including most of my Xmas shopping and the getting my gifts distributed, etc.

The week end was very confusing & believe me we couldn’t make up our minds as to what day it was. Saturday night I went to confession and Sunday evening we just loafed away. Monday, we went downtown for my reservations and ticket and then to the dentist. Tomorrow is my day off and Friday I’ll have to see the dentist again. I’m going shopping tomorrow afternoon and then I’m going to Esse’s tomorrow evening and we’re going shopping some more! It’s so gay downtown with all the Xmas decorations!

Cil, my roommate is leaving at the end of the week. She’s going to college for nine more months to get her degree. Mary will be leaving in another week or so – for the same reason. We’ve been having a gay old time just talking away about nothing and laughing. I’ll certainly miss them. They’re going to work a couple of days a week and spend the night here so I won’t be alone all of the time. I’ll miss them though.

 Somewhere in the early part of this letter – I said I was sleepy. I still am! So, will close with a good night and X just for you!

Always your very own,

Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Dec. 1, 1948*

*Dearest Darling: -*

*Well, another month has really gone by fast, hasn’t it Now we can look forward to a new month, a month of holidays and happiness together.*

*I received your wonderful news of today of your coming Dec. 23rd to spend Christmas time in my arms. I guess I really have to work hard to the all mud off the Chevy and shine it up, because the Chevy has to be just so for you!*

*It was nice and sunny here again today, I hope these kinds of days hang around to welcome you.*

*Fr. Ed came over last night for a while, Phyllis and Fr. Ed finished the selecting parts for the boys and girls for each play. Do you want a part? It can definitely be arranged Fr. Ed said. Fr, Ed and Dad played checkers for a while, it was interesting to watch them play, as they both had a different style of play, they played about six games I think, and it was a tie, so we played a game of buck after that. Fr. Ed called Fr. Pastorak last night to see if he would be at home today, Fr. Ed wanted to get some more play material from Fr. Pastorak. I almost forgot to say, Fr. Ed wanted me to write and thank you for him, for the pretty shirts you sent him, he said he would write later on.*

*Yesterday and today I was helping a fellow with a tractor and blade clean and build a drain ditch on my place which will handle the excess water which would ordinarily flood some of the lower land, when we have lots of rain.*

*Darling, I heard “Jingle Bells” over the Bob Crosby’s show. After hearing it, the Christmas atmosphere has definitely entered my thoughts. I have a program on now called “Music for You and Me, and they’re playing, “My Darling” just for you, it really conveys the words I want to always say to you. I’m definitely yearning for your returning.*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

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Mercy Hospital

8:15 PM Thursday night

Dec. 2, 1948

Dearest –

Things are quiet tonight. It’s a little too early to be passing medications for sleep yet, so I thought would write a few lines to you until then.

Yesterday, I went Christmas shopping. The crowds are fierce no matter when you go these days. Picked out a few gifts – and I’ve a few more to go. I was rather discouraged because I can’t find some of the gifts that I want. You are my very special problem – I want to buy you something special and I just can’t seem to be satisfied at what I look.

In desperation, I’ll buy you a cook book, or something – just wait and see!

No doubt you are wondering where I picked out such a lovely paper – it’s our scratch paper pad – and red is the kind of ink we use here.

(11 PM)

December 4, 1948

Darling,

“I Love You Truly, Truly Dear” – the radio is playing away and saying the words in my heart!

It’s the wrong kind of music, however – dreamy like and soothing - I’ll be asleep in no time. I wanted so to write tonight. The evening slips by so quickly that I hardly know where its gone to.

On my day off I went shopping (as I started to write to you on duty). I went to Esse’s for supper and then she and I went to my Dad’s for the evening. My brother Hank drove us back. We had a real nice time. I’m having a hard time coaxing my Dad to come to our wedding – you see last summer he finally got to Nebraska and now he doesn’t dare to think of another trip there. However, I’ve coaxed him to the point of “maybe.” With a few more tries I’m sure it will be “yes.” Dad hasn’t seen me since my vacation – it’s such a trip to his place and then if I could just see Dad I wouldn’t mind going over – but I think you understand. However – things aren’t ever changed and there is no one like your own mother. Dad also wanted to know if I was doing something to my hair. He said it looks so dark. Well, I haven’t done anything but cut it and that doesn’t make hair dark I’m sure.

I went to the dentist again tonight and have two more appointments for next week. My teeth will be so “sparkly” you’ll be “blinded” when you see them (joke)!

You spoke of a part in a play in one letter and something about the 21st. I won’t be there till the 23rd, so I can hardly be in a play – it would be fun doing it.

Well darling – it seemed as if I had so much to say – and here I am – seemingly out of news. I could say a few things like – you didn’t even notice the short hair on the pictures I sent – or are you tactfully avoiding the subject of short hair? It’s so much longer now that it doesn’t feel like a short haircut any more. I could also tell you about the fun I had picking out toys for each of my nieces and nephews. I even got a cute gift for the future Kreski baby! Delphine and Ricky are so cute when they talk about the new baby that their parents ordered from the doctor! My little nephew is a very lovable little boy and has almost spoiled me – hugging and kissing me so when I go and see them. Guess he knows I miss being loved!

Sweet dreams my sweet –

Your Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Dec. 3, 1948*

*Dearest darling: -*

*I had a sweet letter from you today, after reading it twice today. I can realize darling how much you love me, working when you could have your one day a week off, so that we can be together at Christmas time.*

*It was Indian summer here again today, the temperature got to about 60º, for December, that’s really warm.*

*Today I’ve been hauling hay in for Dad’s cattle and then I took time off to wash some of the excess mud off the Chevy, I can’t believe it’s the same car, that’s how much mud it was covered with.*

*I no more than got done eating supper tonight when I sat own in an easy chair to listen to the radio for a while before I wrote to you, I fell asleep in no time flat, I guess I slept for an hour. When I woke up I realized that I was to write to the “girl of my dreams.”*

*Sis and I went over to Fr. Ed’s last nite for a while, Fr. was making a sick call last nite at St. Francis hospital, but the call didn’t materialize, so we had a wonderful evening with one exception, you weren’t present. We played checkers all evening and had the phonograph playing all the time, Fr. Ed insisted that I pop some corn, so I did; Fr. Ed and Phyllis said it was eatable. Fr. Ed is a very good checker player and he is hard to beat. Are you practicing up to beat me at the game? I’ll bet you can beat me without practicing.*

*Sis went to Fr. Ed’s again tonight to practice for the Christmas program, as they practice on Friday evenings.*

*Allan and one of our younger uncles, Charley [Kresha], went to Osceola to a movie, Bing Crosby is playing in “A Road to Utopia.”*

*So, you’re doing your Christmas shopping early this year, I haven’t started yet, but am thinking about it although tis plenty early.*

*Please send me Esse’s full address, as I would like to send her and her family a Christmas card.*

*By the way, I saw a picture of “little Delphine” as you call her, honestly she is a very pretty and sweet little girl, she takes after Aunt Del, I’m sure.*

*Always faithfully yours,*

*Glenn*

*----------*

*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Dec. 5, 1948*

*Dearest darling,*

*How is my darling this wintry evening, have you had any snow yet?*

*Yesterday it was very nice and sunny, in the evening I went to Osceola for a while. I went to confession at St. Vincent’s and when I came home, the stars and moon were shining peacefully. Allan had a tractor in the garage, so I left my car set outside, as it was clear and warm. Well, this morning as I awoke, old man winter was at it again, it was snowing with a strong wind drifting it into piles, later this afternoon it cleared off and it wasn’t very cold then. The roads are closed again from the blowing snow, so I didn’t get to hear mass this morning or receive holy communion. As Wednesday is a holy day I can go then, I hope. The snow plow did go by here this evening about dark, so I’ll probably be able to mail my letter in the morning, maybe I’ll be lucky enough to hear from my “blue eyes” also. Tonight darling, the old lovely moon and stars are waiting for you and me, and everything is back to normal.*

*It feels wonderful to be writing, enjoying a warm fire and just listening to the radio. It’s just second best though, to spending each evening with you, just enjoying our favorite radio programs on the wintry evenings. I’ve been listening to a couple of our favorite program, Manhattan Merry-Go-Round and the American Album of Familiar Music, and one tune that puts with me in a sentimental mood is “You’ll Never Know How Much I Love You,” that’s not true though. In our love affair, I’m pretty sure our love is equal and true in all sincerity, although it is a pretty tune to listen to. At present I have Horace Heidt’s program on, do you listen to it, honey? He travels from one big city to another in search for top musical talents. When I listen to the radio and write to you it only takes about an hour and a half to write. I guess when I write I should shut the radio off so I can concentrate more, and make you realize how much I miss you!*

*Sis and mother are playing checkers no; somebody is playing checkers around here every evening to see who is the best player.*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

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2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Ill

December 6, 1948

Sweetheart –

Received your letter today and of course I feel sort of guilty about not writing over the weekend. I really don’t know why I feel guilty except that I told myself I’d write oftener. I think I keep up with your letters though, so I’m sure you aren’t provoked at me.

Must be that I know I’m getting a vacation soon. I get so tired and listless and then I wish I could rest my weary head on your shoulder. Mm – it sounds good – heavenly!

I’m writing before going to the dentist – but I won’t finish since I have to go cash my check and eat supper real soon.

Had a busy weekend. Saturday evening, I knitted away with fury and about 10 PM I went down for cokes etc. and coming up the stairs I tripped – spilt the cokes and banged my knee cap or should I say bruised it quite badly. It hurt too! By then I decided I was too tired for anything else except bed. Sunday morning – early in the AM I awoke and sat up in bed and then, as if I was going to lie down again, (because it was too early) I hit the side of my head full force against the radiator next to my bed instead of the bed. I got kinda messing looking as it started to bleed quite a bit. I didn’t have to go on duty until 1 in the afternoon so I went back to sleep with just a cut above my ear and a sad disposition. By the time I had to go on duty, my bruises and cuts were just a painful memory.

Tonight wasn’t too happy either – guess I needed your hand to hold on to! The dentist filled one of my upper teeth and it was really painful – it was very sensitive or something! Of course, I didn’t cry, but I asked him what I had done and he laughed and asked me if I was a bad girl over the weekend. So, I said – well, I didn’t write to my boyfriend – he smiled at that! Anyway, I’m glad that’s over with!

I got a bang out of your letter. Especially the part that said you had to pop the corn and then Sis and Father Ed said it was eatable. I bet a lot that they ate most of it! Aren’t you in the Xmas play? And when is it going to be, for sure? Hm?

Seventeen more days (almost 16 that is – its almost midnight) and I’ll be with you. Just a little bit more than two weeks. I have so many things to do before Xmas and yet the time can’t fly fast enough. I got all my gifts for my nieces, nephews, Dad and Mrs. J and Hank and Dorothy. I need yet to get my Nebraska gifts and one for the girls. Then I’ll be all set.

From the one who’s heart you’ll always have,

Del

P.S. Enclosed pleas find a Sacred Heart badge. Please keep it safely for me. I’m afraid it will get lost in all the moving I have to do one of these months and I’d like very much to have this very one as Sr. promised to pray for “our happiness” in May.

Love you? ‘Deed I do!

Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Dec. 8, 1948*

*Dearest,*

*I was planning on writing to you last nite, but because I had company I never got started. Fr. Ed came over for a while, so I know you’ll know why I didn’t write sooner. Fr. Ed had to make a phone call to Geneva. Fr. Ed said he was going to attend a funeral in Geneva Thursday for an elderly priest that died, but he called there and said that he couldn’t come, because he was to say mass at another funeral in Krakow. He just visited for a while, but Fr. Ed is very interesting to listen to and very entertaining and an evening goes by before you know it.*

*I wish I could have been near to rub and sooth my little girl’s bumps and bruises as I know they hurt.*

*I received your very pretty Sacred Heart badge, I promise I’ll keep and take good care of it, just for you, I know it look very pretty on my pretty sweet bride-to-be and for the religious value it will have in making our lives of happiness a true reality in the eyes of God.*

*You asked if I was going to be in the Christmas play, Fr. Ed wanted me to but I don’t know why, but I feel that I’m much older than any of the kids in the CYO and too bashful, etc. Of course, if you were here to twist my arm I’d take a part. The program is to be on Dec. 21st providing everything goes on schedule, such as the weather, etc.*

*Darling, you mentioned having difficulty finding me something for Christmas, maybe I can honestly help you, all I want for Christmas is you, you in my arms darling to kiss and hold, and maybe that cook book would be very practical for me too, because I’m slowly losing my skill in cooking.*

*What did you asked Santy Claus for, maybe I can help him fill your Christmas joys?*

*Well this morning I went to 8:15 mass in Osceola and then just loafed around home. It was colder than usual today, it also snowed a little this afternoon. My landlord also came over for a while today to get some of his share of hay. Yesterday I scooped snow for a while and then in the afternoon I took my car to town to get it serviced, oil changed and greased, which I generally do every 1,000 miles. I got to keep the Chevy in shape, for my darling’s homecoming.*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

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2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Illinois

December 10, 1948

Darling,

Hello precious. How are you this Friday night? I hope feeling much better than I do. Sounds like I’m sick – if you call being heart-sick – that’s me. I’m tired and lonesome and missing you terribly. Your letter’s so sweet as it lifted my spirits enough so that I feel like writing.

We have been unusually busy on the floor. I come off lately feeling tired – too tired to write. I hope you haven’t minded the silence too much! Twelve more days and we’ll be together. Doesn’t seem too much longer anymore?

I think of cute things to write you during the day and then when I when I’m all set to write, they sort of slip my mind. One thing that sort of struck a sad note today was this little old lady who is very slowly dying with cancer and who has been on our floor for months. She said very pathetically that she felt she is dying and she didn’t want to die because she wanted to go to my wedding. It’s so hard to watch these people slowly slip by on a down-hill road. You get quite attached to them.

Well I have decided to get you a cook-book to Xmas so you can learn how to make good breakfasts for me. For when I quit working (right now anyway) I feel like I want to sleep for months. Of course, I’ll let you wake me up for breakfast! I’m getting a big bang out of writing this – I bet I have you frightened already!

Honestly darling – I haven’t any idea what I want for Christmas besides spending it with you. And when I was granted my vacation – I got just exactly what I wanted. I’ll be home for Xmas – just you wait and see. You asked for Esse’s name: Mr. & Mrs. Richard Kreski, 2664 N. Hoyne Ave, (apt. 26), Chicago, Ill 60647].

Oh, I must tell you – it finally snowed last night! It was our 1st snow storm here this year. I finally went out and saw it tonight and brrr its cold. We went out to supper and had French fried shrimp. I’m so nice and full and sort of content.

Yours – all yours,

Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Dec. 10, 1948*

*Dearest darling,*

*It’s been snowing and blowing a little here today. Some of the roads are closed again from the drifting, although it hasn’t been too cold yet. I do hope that “old man winter” relaxes at Christmas time, to welcome you with nice sunny weather. Any way, it will be spring in December when we’re together at Christmas.*

*I haven’t been doing anything strenuous, yesterday or today, except chores and keeping the livestock protected against extremely cold weather. I had paths scooped out around the building to do my work and today they were filled again with snow, so I have the job to do over again, don’t you think “old man winter” is mean to me?*

*Last nite I went over to Fr. Ed’s for a while, Phyllis insisted on going along. Martin and Phil came over for a while too. Fr. Ed had some work to do in the hall, so we worked there for a couple of hours. We had a fire in one of the stoves and had Fr. Ed’s radio playing in the hall, while us carpenters were working. You’ll be in for a surprise, when you see the hall, as Fr. Ed wants it ready for the Christmas play; I’ll help him a few nights, till its finished. Fr. Ed had Sis make us a little lunch of coffee and wieners after we’d finished working for the evening. They were to practice on the Christmas program tonite, but as the snow was drifting all day some of the roads are blocked. Martin and Phil’s mother is still in the Stromsburg hospital, she is sure having a long stay there. Martin said she is conscious now, but is still paralyzed and can talk just a little.*

*I’ve been interrupted in writing to you, as mother is getting ready to have the dining room papered tomorrow, so I took time off to help move the piano away from the wall and now I’m back again.*

*I’ve the radio on now, with the “Life of Riley” on with William Bendix; I just like to listen to them occasionally. The part I like is the character Digger O’Dell (the friendly undertaker). Have you ever listened to that program?*

*Sis is playing Solitaire 500 by herself, I know how to play the game, but haven’t played for a while. It’s one card game that only one person can play.*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

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2517 Prairie Ave.

Chicago 16, Ill

December 12, 1948

My darling,

Hello! Aren’t I Christmasy tonight! [letter written on stationary with jingle bells printed on it] The time is getting shorter and before you know it I’ll be in your arms saying hello!

I’m in a very good mood tonight. I feel so rested! I had a “little” nap prior to writing this letter. To be exact slept from 6 PM to 10 PM! Isn’t that disgusting? But golly – I have to get rid of the circles under my eyes before I come to see you.

I’m pretty happy because I finished your surprise knitting last night. Since I have your written agreement that you’ll wear what I have made for you, I only hope it fits. I’m also pleased with myself since I’ve found a Christmas present for you. Now I have to worry about sending Christmas cards. I’ll have to get them written sometime this week and mailed just before I leave.

Guess what? I have the nicest music on. They’re playing one of my old-time favorites, “Josephine.” Real cute.

Did I tell you I finally broke down and went to a movie last week? I hadn’t been to one since October. It was a double feature and as usual – one was good and the other – not as good. I saw “The Night has a Thousand Eyes” which was good. The story was really different. I did not enjoy “The Loves of Carmen.” It had beautiful scenery and the acting (Rita Hayworth) but the story wasn’t any good. Mary thought it would have good music in it and it didn’t even have that. So, we were disappointed.

Mary move last Friday night so I have been without a roommate for two days now. Cil left last Sunday. However, Mary and I have a dentist appointment tomorrow evening so she’s coming here from college and she’ll spend the night here. Cil is finally taking State Boards next Tuesday and Wednesday so she’s coming out tomorrow night. When we get back from the dentist, we’ll have to quiz her till she’s blue in the face. Please say a little prayer for her? You see, she couldn’t take the Boards with us cause she’ll be 21 years old Wednesday and was too young before.

Your lil “Blue Eyes”

Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Dec. 14, 1948*

*Dearest Darling:*

*It’s 10:30 AM darling now, as I’m writing. I promised myself I would write last nite but I didn’t.*

*Fr. Ed & Martin C came over for a while last nite and we played “Sheephead” till about twelve o’clock, so I promised myself I would write in the morning, so I’m happy again. I told Fr. Ed that I should be writing to you instead of playing cards. Fr. Ed said Sis and he would write you a letter for me, or I should say they were going to type a letter, I said I wouldn’t allow them to type you a letter, it had to be handwritten, it’s the proper way, I explained. Well, they must have forgotten their promise because I haven’t seen any letter.*

*It’s another wintry day here, it cloudy and sort of foggy, it will probably rain or snow before the day is over. Happy to hear that snow has fallen, you’ll be used to the winter weather when you come back to “our white Christmas.”*

*Sunday nite Allan and a couple of neighbor boys and I went to a show in Osceola, “On an Island with You” with Esther Williams and Jimmy Durante, in color. “On an Island with You” hmm, sounds wonderful doesn’t it?*

*After the show, we went to Shelby for a while, St. Andrews had their church bazaar in the Shelby hall. They served supper and had bingo and other gambling wheels. They didn’t have a dance since its almost Advent. Between the four of us, none of us were lucky playing bingo. I guess it wasn’t our night, ha.*

*Thanks a million for Estelle’s address, I hope to send them a Christmas card this week.*

*I haven’t done any Christmas shopping yet, but I made up my mind this is the week. I’ve been thinking for over a month what to get for you, and now that I have finally made up my mind, I can go shopping.*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

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25 17 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Illinois

Dec. 14, 1948

My darling,

Hi! This is just going to be a line so that you don’t think I have completely forgotten you. I shall be quite busy the rest of the week and don’t know if I’ll have much time for writing.

Tomorrow I have to go to a “wake.” The girl I work with, well, her father died Sunday. From there I have to go downtown to pick up my reservation for my trip back to Chicago. Thursday I’m going shopping for a new dress for Xmas and Friday night I’m going to Esse’s. I have Saturday off. I’ll try writing Friday night or Saturday morning.

Darling, it’s because the time is so short before I see you that I have become lax in writing. I still love you my precious with all my heart and every time I think of it, I get all excited. A week from now – almost – and I’ll be in your arms. I can hardly wait!

Loving you for always,

Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Dec. 16, 1948*

*Sweetheart,*

*Sometimes darling, I get so tense waiting that I just don’t know what to do.*

*Today has been nice, the sun has been shining and the snow has melted a little. It will be a partial white Christmas if not a real white Christmas.*

*Sis and I went over to Fr. Ed’s last nite for a while. I had planned on writing to you but Fr. Ed stopped in and wanted me to help Phil in the hall. Phil has been staying with Fr. all week helping him.*

*Fr. Ed was to have gone to Omaha to buy himself a new \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Maybe I shouldn’t say so as to keep you guessing so if Fr. Ed doesn’t get what he wants, I wouldn’t have told you a little white \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I guess by now, since I started writing, I feel much happier just talking to you and maybe a little mean too, ha.*

*But seriously darling, I love you so very much, I just had to break the spell and have some fun.*

*Yesterday I did some Christmas shopping, just for you. I feel like Christmas is getting more nearer, since I went shopping, but I have some more yet to do.*

*Sis, she’s jabbering a way on the telephone with Genone M, it disturbs my writing, but maybe she’ll get tired of standing by the phone in a half hour or so.*

*Today I was building myself a snow plow, to make paths around the building and to the road. Maybe if it works real good, I’ll get a patent on it. Ha.*

*…Good morning, I was interrupted last night in writing. Eddie Micek, who leads the Kay Mills Orchestra and some of my younger uncles came over for a while and we played cards till midnite.*

*I’ve got that accordion player on now that plays over Columbus, he’s playing a waltz now. Before that there was a half hour of Polish music on record from Columbus, I enjoyed it as it’s been a while since I’ve heard Polish music.*

*Yours forever,*

*Glenn*

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Dec. 18, 1948*

*Hello sweetheart*

*How is my darling today, getting ready to take the #809 special to Nebr?*

*I’m writing after taking a short nap this afternoon. It’s been a very beautiful day, warm and sunny.*

*I’ve been just loafing away the day listening to the radio. The Christmas music sounds prettier than ever this year, it’s all because of you.*

*Well, I’ll have to tell you what happened to me yesterday (Sat).*

*Fr. Ed wanted Allan and I to check a short in the lights in the hall, well, after looking around for a while, we found the trouble, where one of the boys crossed the wires. To go on, Theresa, Rita and Phyllis were cleaning Fr’s house and washing, Theresa was telling me how hard work it was waxing the floors. I said it wasn’t, so I took over and waxed the dining room and kitchen in a little while. The girls were real surprised, they didn’t think I could or would do it, I guess.*

*Well darling, this is where I was interrupted again. It was supper time and then after supper, Alvis S came over and wanted to go to a show in Columbus, so Allan and I went together with him. It was a good show, a story of a dog, “Rusty Leads the Way.” (I’m finishing writing to you after breakfast).*

*Sis went over to Fr Ed’s again last night for choir and play practices. I don’t think they’ll have their program on Dec. 21st because of the roads and they haven’t had enough time to practice.*

*I have a dental appointment this afternoon in Osceola. I have one or two small fillings, so I probably can sleep in the chair while he is working on them.*

*I still have some Christmas shopping and a few Christmas cards to send today, so I’ll have things in shape.*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

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12-18-48

[a small Christmas card]

Hello Sweetheart,

I’ve finally got a day off and its pretty swell. I’m going to start counting the hours soon – about 108 hours and I shall be seeing you. It sounds closer in days – four more days!

I’m so happy thinking about coming out that I can’t think of anything else – as you can see! Will call-up the station and send you the exact hour that the train is scheduled to pull in!

Darling I love you!

Del

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12-20-48

[a small Christmas card]

Darling -

Have been writing Xmas cards all evening long!

We had the loveliest snow fall last night – a real heavy snow. It was truly beautiful out last night. I wrapped gifts and made bows etc. last night till it was midnight. I was at Esse’s so I took a cab back to get on duty this morning.

Tomorrow night we have a Xmas party for all nurses, Dr’s and wives, etc. They have a play, Santa Claus, and then lots of food. I have lots to do before Wednesday – THE DAY – yep, the day I leave to go to my honey! I just called up and the train you are to meet will arrive at 1:51 AM on Dec. 23rd. Hope you’ll be there! (could anyone hold you back?) For some reason it was exciting to hear the man say what time the City of Denver [name of train] would pull into Columbus – just for us!

Darling I’m running out of space! Oh, honey it won’t be long anymore and the waiting will be over with for a while.

Your very own,

Del

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**Christmas note from Del’s sister Esse to Glenn**

2664 Hoyne Ave

Chicago 47, Ill

Dec. 22, 1948

[a small Xmas card]

Dear Glenn,

I’ve been intending to write to you simply weeks ago, but I didn’t get your address until recently. I do want to congratulate you and welcome you to our family. Our family on the whole, is reckless and high-spirited but we marry into men with quiet and calm natures which should make for a happy marriage for you, Glenn, if you’re the quiet, restful type. My husband and brother-in-law are.

I really can’t take time out to write you a long letter, since I’m first starting my Xmas cards. I had the cards in October but somehow, *tempus fugit,* and here I am, writing cards instead of baking more cookies. However, I do wish you a lot of happiness and have a grand time this Xmas season.

Esse

1949

[Delphine left Chicago on Thursday, December 23, 1948 and returned Sunday, January 9th, 1949, 18 days off work.]

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2517 Prairie Ave.

Chicago 16, Ill

January 10, 1949

My very own Darling,

My trip back was very good and uneventful. When the train started out – and I got my last view of the town, I was certain I would have to break my promise and cry. But I didn’t, honey. Instead I started to think of the wonderful Holidays we had together – just being with each other was incredibly close to heaven. Soon I fell asleep and believe it or not, I slept all night till 8 this morning. The girl, Virginia Podraza, that got on the train with me in Columbus sat with me. We started to talk Sunday morning and pretty soon she asked if I was D\_\_\_ J\_\_\_\_. I said yes. She said, “I thought you were since I know Glenn Kresha and I read about your engagement in the Chicago papers.” Your little girl was very much surprised since she knew of no other place the write-up was in except in the Mercy News. “Oh yes,” she goes on, “I was surprised to see it in Matt Gross’ column. Isn’t that just a column for movie stars and celebrities?” Well, I was very much surprised. Since I’ve been back at the hospital I have had more comments about this. Esse also saw it and saved it & sure enough, right among the elite is an announcement of our engagement! I’ve gotten a big bang out if it!

To continue my happenings – (my 48 hours have been pretty busy ones really!) The train was five minutes ahead of schedule & I arrived in Chicago before 9:30 AM. Got to ten o’clock mass. I was even able to receive Holy Communion since I didn’t break my fast. Went back to the station, ate breakfast, picked up my luggage and went to the Nurses home before noon.

Had a very cordial greeting when I got there. First of all, I picked my mail up. No letter from the Department of Education. I was mildly surprised and somewhat bewildered. Among my mail was a postcard from Cil (the roommate that is going on back to school). Her third line just sent my downhearted spirits zooming skyward! And I quote: “Congratulations on your R.N. I wanted to be the first one to tell you about it because I know it would make you so happy.”

The kids were all down there working so I got to see them all! And in my mirror was my diploma stating that “Delphine Genevieve Jaworowski was entitled to practice as an R. N.” Darling, I was so happy! I feel I have achieved the goal I set out for myself 3 years ago. As I said, the kids were all here and I got to see them all during their lunch hour. It was a happy welcome back. I, of course, had to jabber away about my wonderful trip. Everyone asked me how I was feeling, so of course I told them I just had a cold and not pneumonia. All day on duty today I had to reassure a lot of people that I am now feeling fine. One little sister, that is no longer a patient here but just comes down from the convent for her liver shots, saw me today and she all but kissed me – she was so glad to see me. She told me she had prayed real hard for me to get well because I was so nice to her. (I used to give her the liver shots and she though I gave them so well).

I have so much to say that I’m sure my letter will be too long for you! You’ll get sleepy I’m sure! About two o’clock I called Esse and went down to spend the day with her. I didn’t have to go on duty till 1PM today, so I stayed overnight there.

The children had so much to tell me and of course I had to tell them about how we kept Santa Claus over the house for hot coffee and that Glenn had his picture taken with Santa Claus. Boy, were they impressed! I had a lovely day. It was good to see everyone. About 8:15 I tried calling you, but no one answered. She tried again in 20 minutes. I guess you weren’t home. I left Esse’s this morning. I called Lee up to let her know I’m in. Will go in to see her sometime next week.

My scribbling is getting worse – it’s because I’m sleepy. It’s one AM. Good morning! It’s a new day already. Gosh, I wish I could tell you how happy I am. It seems everything is going smoothly – I don’t have any more exams to retake – and precious, its only 123 days to O.W.D. and the days till I see you again will be very many less! My darling, I love you very very much and I shall try hard to keep happy until we’re together. When we’re together, I won’t have to try, I will be!

Goodnight my darling – sweet dreams.

Till I hear from you – all my love,

Del

P.S. and some more!

Meant to tell you about the weather here. It was like a beautiful spring day. They haven’t had any snow since the time before I left. Last night the temperature dropped & it rained and then sleeted a little bit. Then there were small evidences of snow in a few spaces on the grounds this morning. It quickly disappeared and it’s been a nice day again.

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Jan. 11, 1949*

*Dearest Darling,*

*Hello darling. Did you have a safe and comfortable trip?*

*I waited impatiently Sunday evening for your call, but really felt bad the next morning when I found out our telephone was out of order and the call never came through because of ‘old man winter’s’ interference.*

*I’ll bet the Sister’s and nurses and especially the doctors were happy to see you back at the hospital, weren’t they?*

*Fr. Ed and Phil came over last night. Fr. Ed’s altar cover came in, so Phil and I went to the Depot to get it. It really is pretty. Fr. Ed said it would cost me $5 extra to have it put on the altar on O.W.D. (joke) It would be worth it though, just for you.*

*After we came back from Osceola, we played “7-up” and “Black Magic.”*

*Fr. Ed and I traded cars last night, temporarily. I’m going to have his car checked over and serviced this afternoon in Osceola. Fr. was going to have it done in Omaha where he got the car, but the roads and weather seem to be boss.*

*Fr. was really surprised and happy when I told him you got a reservation on the City of Denver.*

*The weather has been very cold since you left, lucky girl, it has snowed a little too. They had snow in Los Angeles and Hollywood yesterday too, so I guess Nebraska isn’t the only place it gets cold.*

*Yesterday I didn’t wake up till 1:30 PM darling and this morning at ten o’clock, so I guess I’m getting back to regular hours again, but I’m sure going to miss going out with you.*

*Yours forever,*

*Glenn*

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2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Illinois

Jan. 12, 1949

12:45 PM

Darling,

Just a note to tell you that you’re are on my mind almost all the time. How else could it be? You are so much a part of me. Most of all I miss spending my evenings with you.

I’m going to work 1-9:30 this week and it sort of breaks the blues that would normally come with the early evening.

Tomorrow is my day off for the week and though it seems early in the week for a day off, I have loads of things to do. Clothes to wash & iron and some to take to the cleaners. As for my sleep, I have been catching up on it. I barely made it on duty at 1 PM. Got up after twelve today. If I don’t go to sleep soon – I’ll sleep through my day off.

Yours forever – forever and ever,

Del

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130 days

2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Illinois

January 13, 1949

10:30 PM

Darling mine –

Have you heard “I Love You So Much It Hurts?” The second verse is ours! And now the platter is spinning – “Miss you, more than I can say dear – daytime, night time – moments apart.” It seems like any song the disc jockey plays reminds me of you, sweetheart!

Everyone gives me a hard time, teasing me about the long vacation I had! Well, I’m awfully glad I stayed so long [16 days in Nebraska]! Wished it could have been longer, but ‘my boy’ tucked me in on the train. He got tired of me I guess! (O-oo-please control your temper honey. I’m only foolin’! Honest!)

Had a letter from Small Fry tonight. I got a smile from something she wrote. She told me about your being at Fr’s and stating you haven’t been home much or I’d be hearing from you by now. She must not have known you wrote Tuesday morning! She’s all worried about the fact that she doesn’t know who she’s standing up with. Guess my honey holds the key to that answer. When you have asked the boys who are to stand up, will you let me know? There’s no rush, - it’s still a little over four months away. The time will start flying away any day now, I know, but right now it seems awfully far away. Guess I have a one-track mind and that’s you and how much I miss you. I seem to end every paragraph that way.

Yesterday I had my day off for the week. I slept till noon – finished my unpacking and getting my room straightened out. We went to the movies about six o’clock (couple of girls and I). We saw “June Bride” which was quite a comedy and “Man from Colorado” which was very exciting all the way through. If I was the nail-biting kind, I would have bit them all off. Instead, I just sat tense through half the movie wondering how it was going to end.

This morning I got up at ten o’clock and washed my clothes and got things pretty well under control before I went on duty at one.

Your very own,

Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Jan. 13, 1949*

*Dearest Darling:*

*After writing that you received your R.N. darling, I felt real happy for you. Remember, I congratulated you about a week after you took your exams, well, I had that much confidence you would reach your goal. Tell “Cil” that she wasn’t the first to congratulate you, but that I was. Ha. Anyway, with all my love for you, I want to say congratulations again, a million of them.*

*So, the announcement of our engagement made the newspaper. I really am not surprised to hear that I was engaged to a celebrity, because deep down in my heart you always were one to me.*

*This girl you mentioned on the U.P., I knew the people that took her to the train, but I don’t remember meeting her – honest - I guess it’s really a small wonderful world, when two girls from Chicago meet in Nebraska and can talk about people they know here and in Chicago, right?*

*I finally made out my income tax today, after my exemption and depreciation on my machinery, I was lucky I don’t owe Uncle [Sam] anything. I went over to Kenneth Cornish’s house and he helped me make mine out, as he has the last few years. After filling out or completing my return, he asked me if he heard right about us, and I said yes. He said he was very happy for both of us, as he said he met you at the time the new hospital was started. He also asked what day we were getting married.*

*He’s taken up photography as a hobby. He showed me his flash camera which he gave $150 for and an enlarger which cost him $150 also. He also showed me some pictures he took at St. Vincent’s for Peggy Starocik who married there while you were here, remember her? They were sure good pictures, they were enlarged. He had pictures of them kneeling at the altar, walking into the church, a picture of the people around the dinner table and the couple cutting the wedding cake. He even hinted he was available May 24th. That’s Kenneth. I said maybe, but said I would ask you because maybe one of your family would rather do it.*

*Sis and I went over to Fr. Ed’s Tuesday evening. Rose and Cliff were there also, typing and making a new stencil. Phil, Cliff and I worked in the basement, putting a ceiling on the south part. The boys got tired early so we played cards in the basement for a while.*

*Allan has been rewiring the basement for Fr. Ed yesterday and today, Phil has been helping. Phil and Allan came over for supper tonight, then they went to a show in Osceola, looks like they’re becoming buddies, eh? Phil said Fr. Ed went to Columbus this afternoon and hasn’t come back yet.*

*Sis was playing basketball yesterday and got hit in the eye with the ball, you ought to see her shiner, it’s real pretty. Wait till Fr. Ed sees it, bet she will really get razzing then.*

*You must have sent a lot of sunshine in your letter, as it was spring-like today. It’s only 66 days till spring and 124 days to our wedding day, which I pray will be sunny and warm.*

*Tomorrow is my dental appointment at 9 AM, so I better be thinking of going to dream land soon.*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

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3081 hrs till 9 AM on 5/24

2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Illinois

January 14, 1949

Darling mine,

Come with me – and we’ll reminisce. Remember when I was home you said you wouldn’t forget that dance in Silver Creek? Curiosity finally got me this evening. I got off duty on time and pulled out my diary that I kept in 1944. It seems that I was too busy in July and August to keep a day by day description of things so I just reviewed the highlights of the month.

Here goes some things that might interest you! July 12 – “Rose Lisko is home this month and I went with her to the dance in Silver Creek. Had a perfectly swell time – and that’s no foolin’. (A description – then). In comes Glenn Kresha. He had about 4 dances with me and so I had a date for Sunday, July 16.”

We saw the “Sullivan’s.” Had a sundae at Malek’s and met some of his pals. Let me see – (shall I go on? Okay) this sorta started something and I was dated the following two Sundays – the 30th we saw “Buffalo Bill” and on August 6th we went to the Duncan dance. Had a nice time. He’s an okay kid – but period. I don’t feel like being serious about anyone. (Remember this is me in 1944 and not 1949!) On August 7th I landed in the hospital! (& I go on to describe how I burned my foot, etc. and of my stay in the hospital, etc. Then the next may interest you). Father came after me Sunday August 13th. It was after nine in the evening. From the hospital we went to Saint Andrew’s picnic. I sat at the Bingo all evening with my foot on a box. Won bingo twice. Got a lovely blanket and then toward the end of the evening, Glenn got out of working, so we played together – for a cute doll. I won the very last game. So now I have Suzanne, who I will give to Glenn before I leave, for safe keeping. End of quotes.

Honey, when I read through my diary I guess I was a pretty flighty lil girl. Just wanted a good time and lots of fun. Didn’t want to be serious about anyone. I shall have to save the diary so you can see for yourself how young your honey was at 22 years of age. About as bad as Small Fry is at 16.

Oh, just one more thing you will get a bang out of. Remember the bet about the box of candy? – “the best there is – to the one that gets married first. He kept saying he hoped he’d never have to pay that bet – the look in his eyes – glad I’m going east.”

And now honey, I travel 600 miles to see that look in his eyes – cause I’m so in love with him. I’m so glad that “Mary” kept you for me!

For tonight darling, - I’ll sign off. Tomorrow I’ll finish my little letter. I’m awfully sleepy. The crooner on the radio is playing “Tura-Lura-Lural” just like the angel you are – “Rock-a-by Baby” so maybe I had better just go to sleep! Sweet dreams precious mine!

Continues:

Saturday night

Jan. 15, 1949

Hi –

Had a bad time of it this morning for a while when there was no mail. But its very unlike my darling not to write unless he has a good excuse. I hope you’re snowbound there and not sick or something.

25º - It’s much colder – the wind

Sunday night

Jan. 16, 1949

Darlin’-

This letter is going to look like a diary if I don’t stick at it long enough. I find myself needing to write to ease that feeling – and yet when I hear the radio reports (I’ve made it a point to hear some news reports) that western Nebraska is snow-bound again, I get discouraged about writing cause I know you won’t be getting mail either. However, maybe you’ll get my mail even if I don’t hear from you.

Last night the girls were here to spend the night. Cil and Mary work the weekends. Any way, after I got off duty at 9:30, we went out to eat. About 11:30 I started to write and a couple more of the kids came up so I gave up trying to write.

During the night your lil girl had a tummy ache. I don’t know if it was the pork sandwich so late in the evening or what. I think it was 3 AM before I finally fell asleep – minus the pork sandwich.

Today I worked 7:30-4. We went to a shower and got there about 5:15. One of the girls is getting married February 12th. It was fun getting together again. Lot of the kids I haven’t seen since this summer were there, so we had fun jabbering – believe me.

It’s just a week and a day since I left Nebraska and I feel that its far away and at least a month ago since saw you last. The thrill of getting my R.N. has worn off and now I’m afraid I’ve fully realized that we’re apart. It’s really tough not hearing from you. I’m as blue as can be. That ole man winter better ease up out in Nebraska and let me hear from you or else!

Guess I better sign off if I keep on this way – its late and I suppose I had better go to sleep. Wish I didn’t miss you so – it really does hurt:

*“I love you so much it hurts me*

*And there’s nothing I can do.*

*I want to hold you, my dear – forever and ever.*

*I love you so much it hurts me so!”*

That’s the second verse I mentioned in my last letter. Goodnight precious darling – sweet dreams till you awake!

Yours always

Del

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Snow and colder weather

Strong west wind

0º by Wednesday night.

2517 Prairie Ave

Chicago 16, Ill

January 18, 1949

Precious –

Honey – guess what? I have two letters to answer. Had a letter yesterday and another today. Golly, I love being spoiled that way.

I don’t like to hurt Kenneth Cornish’s feelings but both my brothers-in-law are photography bugs as is my brother Hank. They’re planning on taking movies of the wedding, etc. – colored film if we can get it. They also have very fine cameras – flash bulbs, etc. and so I guess they’ll be official photographers for the event. I’m sure he’ll understand when you tell him about my brothers-in-law. Rich was saying something about colored snap shots too. I think I’ll let my honey get the film for us as it’s a little hard to get out here. Anyway, one of these days I’ll get the dope from Rich as to size of film etc. I want pictures and movies etc. very much. Maybe if I tell you about little Delphine you’ll understand. Rich finally got a projector for Xmas and so all the movies they’re taken for the last few years, they saw all over again (they used to use the Kennedy’s projector). Anyway, Lil’ Del saw the movies of Rich and Esse’s wedding and she was thrilled beyond words that her mommy was actually a bride in white like that, you see she’s very interested in bride’s right now and very much impressed. She got a lovely bride doll for Xmas, etc.

So, my you didn’t suffer too much at the dentist the other day! I am surprised. I expected you to be laid up a day or so. My big brave boy is just wonderful and I just don’t fully realize it much of the time. I’m very much impressed!

Honey, if you knew that it was after one o’clock and I was up just writing I’m sure you’d spank me and put me to sleep. Before you do I had better tell you, I had a little nap. I got off at 6 PM and laid down and woke up at 9:15 PM. Had gobs of thing to do – ironed two uniforms, read a little, cleaned up and got ready for duty in the AM. Now I feel better.

Took a quick glance over your letter again and got a bang out of your saying you said congratulations first. So you did but it really wasn’t official till the letter came – sort of like. Anyway, thank you for have so much confidence in me. I can truthfully say I had many doubtful moments concerning the achievement of that goal. However, it was necessary to achieve so that I could plan for my very beautiful future. With the R.N. out of the way, I can concentrate fully on my, on our wedding. I want it to be a day to remember. It’s only going to happen once in my life and so it’s going to be something very special – just for my darling!

Now I must definitely close shop. Know what? It’s been raining all day with the rain freezing and making transportation hazardous! Good, I only have to walk through the tunnel to get from the hospital!

Your blue-eyed

Del

*-----------*

*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Jan. 19, 1949*

*My dearest lil’ girl:*

*I had planned to write last nite, but I was afraid I would get too much help.*

*Fr. Ed, Phil and Cliff came over to spend an evening, so I promised my heart I would write before the mail carrier went.*

*We played “Buck” last night, no “Black Magic;’ Fr. Ed also showed us the game of “Buck” they play at St. Joe’s.*

*I plan on going over to Fr. Ed’s this afternoon, if it doesn’t snow any more. Phil and I are going to finish the ceiling in the basement, I guess Cliff went home last night.*

*We are enjoying our coldest weather now – (silly boy) it really has been cold here since Sunday. It snowed last night after I went to bed. It didn’t snow very much though, but the wind is very chilly.*

*I had a very wonderful time yesterday, just reminiscing with my love in my heart, over the wonderful letter my love wrote. I remember all those memories, wonderful ones, if you’ll let me call them that, and a hundred more. I remember them as vividly as if they were a week ago. I remember them so vividly because since the first date with you and before that, I guess I had a warm spot in my heart for you.*

*One of the things that I could never forget about you, was your warm and sweet personality and the good times I always had with you, when we went to a dance or movies and just being together. I guess all of this I never could find in no one else, of course darling you haven’t heard this before from me… or have you? (ha) But I love you more because of all the past. Deep down, your love is proving to be more wonderful than I ever hoped and prayed for.*

*Darling, do you remember the time you threw dish water on me? hmm.*

*Always just yours,*

*Glenn*

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2517 Prairie Ave

Chicago 16, Ill

January 20, 1949

Dearest Darling –

Went to the dentist this evening. He took my gold crown off one of my teeth and has to add on some more gold to the sides of it. I have to go back tomorrow again. I don’t like that too well since I wanted to go home overnight before my day off. If its late when he finishes, I won’t be able to. I am planning on going to Lee’s this Saturday.

Did I tell you that one of the polio boys, the older one, Ernie, went home walking on crutches? Jack, the younger one, is still with us. He has finally started to use the walker. I guess he’ll be getting braces since the muscles in the lower part of his leg have not recovered sufficiently. Guess he will be a little more an invalid than Ernie. I marvel at their spirit. The other patients come and go. However, when someone stays as long as these two have, you feel they’re part of the staff or something.

Must tell you something funny. Sunday, we admitted a new patient about whom all the students were excited. He was 6ft 3in, 24 years old, single and Catholic. Perfect – so they all knocked themselves out over him. The big joke was that after he went to surgery, his true colors showed. A bigger baby we haven’t come across for a long time. No kidding! The kids are just disgusted. What a letdown they had.

We had another male patient on the floor (very unusual for us – really). He’s real funny. He has the biggest southern accent you ever heard. He has been married for twelve years. He has a bad heart so his wife is practically here all the time with him. Anyway, they are a darling couple. His wife was “Miss Virginia” of 1938. We all like her a lot. She is one relatives that makes it easier for the nurses by doing things for her husband instead of running out to tell us that the bed needs to be rolled down or the patient wants a glass of H2O. Anyway, to go on with why I started to tell you about the patient, he was telling me about what a “wonderful institution marriage was.” Of course, one way or another, all the patients eventually find out about my being engaged, so I hear the pro’s and con’s on it. I can tell a lot too – can tell if the patient is happily married or not. I have a very good hunch as to what kind of married couple we’ll be – the little birdie told me what I know in my heart – that we’ll be a happily married couple!

Before I close my letter, I must write the words of the song I promised the other night.

*“I’m through calling everybody darlin’. Darlin’ since I fell in love with you. Please believe me when I loved you from the start, I’ll never fool your heart. I through calling everybody darlin’ – ‘scept you!”*

Your blue-eyed lil’ girl

Del XXX

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Jan. 22, 1949*

*My darling!-*

*It’s about 8:00 PM darling as I’m writing. I have “our pretty radio” in front of me as I’m writing. The hit parade has been on, “Buttons and Bows,” “A Little Bird,” a wonderful little bird it was too, and “A Slow Boat to China,” Number three. I’m just making believe it was you singing to me, no one else will do, it’s just your sweet voice that makes me real happy. It’s a wonderful little radio darling, I just thought I’d like to listen to our favorite orchestra, so I turned the dial a little way and sure enough, there was “Guy” playing “Powder Your Face with Sunshine.” Now he’s playing “Stardust,” which only he can play to you, did you hear it?*

*I spent yesterday afternoon at Fr. Ed’s. Phil and I finished the ceiling in the basement. Fr. Ed went to Columbus while we were working.*

*Fr. Ed had a tooth pulled and said it was very painful. He talked like he had to go back to the dentist again next week. Phil came over last nite for Sis to help clean the house, he also got Martha M to help.*

*Allan and I went last nite over to Martin Shemek’s brother-in-law’s house, it was his birthday, his wife surprised him by baking him a birthday cake, which really turned out to be delicious. I got one to take home, a real fat one. We spent the evening playing “Buck.”*

*It’s been very cold here the past few days, about 5º below last night. It’s snowing a little this evening, but I’m happy because I’ve got my love to keep me warm, so let it snow.*

*You’re right, I could spank you, and put you to bed when you write at 1:30 AM, because it’s not fair to write when I’m sleeping, I’m very sleepy company then darling. (ha)*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

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2517 Prairie Ave

Chicago 16, Ill

January 23, 1949

Monday – PM

My very own,

The weekend was almost unbearable. I hadn’t had a letter since last Tuesday – and by Friday I wasn’t fit to live with. I guess ‘ole man winter’ is pretty mean to your lil’ girl. In fact, I guess inside I’m not too grown up because, I acted like a little girl – pouting, and not keeping my chin up. Very coincidentally, the radio is playing “I Love You So Much It Hurts” and followed up with “It Had to be You, Wonderful You!”

This morning I decided to get a hold of myself and be cheerful. I had decided there just would be a letter. There was! The happy kind of letter I needed to make me happy and be myself again.

Yesterday it rained all day and today was a cloudy, dreary day. But not for me – for me the sun was shining and I was again the little girl flying on a cloud!

My last letter to you was Thursday night and gobs of things have happened since then. I missed you, and missed you, and then missed you some more! Remember, Saturday was to be my day off which I was looking forward to so eagerly.

Friday Esse called me up and asked me if I wouldn’t ‘special’ a friend of her girl-friends who had a serious operation on Thursday and for whom they were unable to get nurses for. Friday night, from 11p-7a, I took care of her. Esse’s girl-friend was so grateful – you’d think I did something marvelous for them. In the first place I wasn’t too anxious to go on the case but since Esse asked I didn’t want to refuse. You see it was at another hospital and it was a little involved. I had to take a taxi-cab out and then the lay of the hospital was all very strange to me. However, I was very happy I did. The patient, a woman of 31 years, was just a darling. Honestly, she was so cooperative and very sweet. Her prognosis is very poor. She is filled with cancer. It’s hard enough to take care of older patients who have lived their lives out but when its someone so young, you get very depressed. Of course, I encouraged the patient and gave her lots of hope. She has tubes all over the place and I told her she’d be up walking after a couple of days. She will too. She’ll feel fine for a few months and then she’ll get laid up for good.

Saturday, I slept from ten till six – the whole day. The children must have been on good behavior because I didn’t hear a thing all that time. After supper we sat and looked at movies. It was such fun. Anyway, I decided not to rush back to Nurses Home. At eleven o’clock, I called another cab to take me back. Boy, I felt like the elite traveling around in cabs. It was worth staying the two more hours. Gee it was fun looking at the children when they were babies. They were so precious.

Sunday was just another day – I had a busy day. The other two graduates were off and I had a gay time running the floor without too much help. To top it all, we get so many new admittances on Sunday – that’s a lot of extra work. At any rate, I got off an hour and a half late.

Your girl isn’t very good, honey. She keeps over-sleeping every day. Today I was supposed to be on duty at 7:30 AM. At 8:15 someone came over and woke me up. Very sad! Sister said, “Miss Jaworowski, you’ll have to get an alarm clock.” I told her I have one – “Well, get someone to wake you up.” Easier said than done. Anyway, the next few days I don’t have to go on duty till 1 o’clock in the afternoon so I should get caught up on my sleep!

Good night – my sweet. “Daj mi buzi!” [“Give me a kiss” in Polish]

Del

PS How could I have thrown dish water at you honey? I’m such a sweet girl always! (ha! Ha!)

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Jan. 24, 1949*

*Dearest darling: -*

*I had a wonderful letter from you today. It was 5 PM today when the mail man went by and brought me this letter, so it turned out to be a happier day for your love. Generally, when the train doesn’t come in till noon, the mail carrier delivery is late in the afternoon.*

*It sleeted here yesterday, everything has a covering of ice on it. The highways are coated with ice, and there is very little traffic anywhere. I had to put my chains on the car to do my chores this afternoon because of the ice and snow mixture.*

*Fr. Ed stopped in tonight to make a phone call to a man from Saint Joe’s. He was to say rosary at the Gass funeral home tonite, but called them to let them know he couldn’t come very early, because he had to make a sick call at the Saint Frances hospital for someone from Krakow. Fr. Ed said he will have the funeral tomorrow at Saint Joe’s, I think. Fr Ed said the man’s name was Flaxen. Fr. Ed said he was going to stay at somebody’s place tonite at Saint Joe’s. Fr. Ed wanted me to fire up the furnace tomorrow afternoon for him, when I do my chores, so the house will be warm when he gets back from having a tooth pulled at the dentist in Osceola.*

*Last nite it was very cold, but anyway the Shemek brothers came over, so we went to a show in Osceola. It was the show we would have seen together, that is, if I weren’t so mean to put “my darling” on the C of D. [City of Denver train to Chicago] The show was “Luxury Liner” in color, with Jane Powell. It was a very pretty picture with a good story. Wish we could have seen it together but like I say, it’s me own fault, or is it? Hm.*

*I can get WGN [a Chicago clear channel AM station] on “our portable” very clearly darling. Last nite I had the Parade of Bands on from the big places. Lawrence Welk at the Trianon, Eddie Howard from the Aragon, and Art Kossel from the Black Hawk, then I got sleepy and drifted into dreamland.*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

----------

[first two pages are written on small yellow notepad paper]

2517 Prairie Ave

Chicago 16, Ill

January 26, 1949

Wed Eve, 8:15 PM

Darlin’

Here I am on duty and at present, its very quiet. It won’t be for long – the visitors will go home at 8:30 and the bells will start ringing.

Had a letter from you yesterday and one from Sis today. My morale has been exceptionally good this week since I’ve had mail every day so far. Of course, this is unusual but I’m enjoying it while the good luck lasts.

There are 117 more days and 2,832½ more hours until 9 AM on O.W.D. – there are also 16 weeks and five days left. It isn’t too far away darling and the very thought of the nearness of it thrills me!

Honey, I know something that you don’t think I know. Sis said it made you blush every time she teased you about it. Tell me, who was the letter from that was addressed to *Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Kresha* – hmm? Now I am wondering. So many thoughts run through my mind. Is the boy I’m engaged to hiding away another Mrs. Kresha? Remember honey, you asked me first – I hope!!??

If the teasing is too hard for you to take, well – I’ll be good and stop. Golly, I’ll probably pop another few gray hairs. You are such a constant worry to me!!

Your little girl isn’t going to have a day off again this week. My day off is scheduled for Friday. Rosemary’s mother is going to be operated on either tomorrow or Friday and so I’ll take care of her. You see when we just entered training, Rosemary and I were room-mates. We roomed together for six months. Then Rosemary quit and got married the next June. I was her bridesmaid. Her mom was always sweet to me and I was the official nurse of the family and I had to complete training. I did and now she’s going to have a serious operation – on her mastoid bone. Since it is so close to the brain, it’s a very serious operation. Naturally, I’m glad I’m in a position so that I can be of some service to her.

The reason I’m making sure that I am writing tonight is that I may not be able to do so for the rest of the week. I work until 9:30 tomorrow night and if she goes into surgery tomorrow, I’ll “special” her through the night. Otherwise, it won’t be so bad. I can take care of her Friday during the day. Will let you know how it all turns out.

Well, how are you making out these days? I haven’t had my nose outside since Saturday night. I think that’s very disgusting.

I’m pretty tired right now. Its’ getting pretty late again as if always does when I don’t start writing till almost eleven o’clock.

I don’t have too much more news tonight so I guess I’ll just tell you I’ve been very happy this week. I only wish I could start going and shopping for that all important dress. Don’t seem to be able to find too much time as yet, but will do so soon, I hope.

Yours – all of me!

Del

PS [lipstick kiss on paper]

----------

*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Jan 28, 1949*

*Dearest darling: -*

*Old man winter paid us a very unpleasant visit again yesterday and last nite. It was similar to the visit he showed us Christmas eve darling. We had about six inches of snow along with a lot of drifting wind. Yesterday, the electricity went out at 5 PM and wasn’t restored until 3 PM today. The snow plow hasn’t gone past here yet and there are a lot of roads to reopen after this snow. The day before the snow, the sun was shining and the snow was melting, it really can go to extremes this winter it seems. It may be winter in January outdoors, but its June in my heart because I’m very much in love with you.*

*I haven’t been doing much this week, except eating and sleeping, Oh, I do remember hauling in two loads of hay the past week. Ha. To be truthful with you, this has been and still is I guess, my laziest winter, of course, the elements of winter are slightly responsible. I got a feeling your boy will be pretty soft when spring work starts.*

*The Shemek brothers came over Thursday evening and we went to a wedding dance in Silver Creek, in the old dance hall. The couple was from Clarks, the couple I pointed out to you at the dance we went to at Duncan.*

*Sis is playing solitaire now, once I guess she is seen but not heard. She’s been making a scrapbook of the blizzard of ’49, most of the pictures were taking in western Nebraska and Utah. We really can be thankful we don’t have it as bad as it is there.*

*Fr. Ed came over to spend an evening Wednesday. Martin S. also came and we played a very social game of “black magic.”*

*Allan is popping some corn now, hm, smells good, won’t you join me?*

*Yours forever,*

*Glenn*

*----------*

*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Jan 30, 1949*

*Dearest darling: -*

*The mail train went today for the first time since it snowed last Thursday, no mail man since then either. But somehow through it all, I had a letter from you. The snow plow went yesterday, so Dad went to town, he stopped at the post office to see if there was any mail. They told him there was no train in since Thursday but they would look and see. Sure enough, a letter from you and a local newspaper. It was just what your boy needed to break the spell, and to brighten the day. It was a letter you wrote on Monday Jan 23rd. I guess a lot of the mail trains have been stopped by the snow. Most of the roads are closed yet, especially the mail route. They probably will be opened tomorrow being the train came in today.*

*Today was the first time I did my chores since Thursday nite. My neighbor has been feeding my cattle since then. Today, I rode the pony over to my place to do chores, as the roads are still closed north of there. My livestock were all right and comfortable, being they had a warm shed for shelter. Its been pretty cold here, from +20º to -10º.*

*How is old man winter treating you?*

*I sent for a “Night in May” record in Omaha darling, I’m having them forwarded it to you, also the “Blue Eyes Waltz,” as the “Blue Eyes Waltz” is one of my top favorites, hope you like it and play it often, just because you’re my “blue eyes.”*

*I’ve been listening to “Take It or Leave It,” (the #64 program) presented by Eversharp. They had a lady whose name was Schaeffer; she was asked the name of the pen she received as a gift, and she calmly said, “Parker.” The audience went wild with laughter.*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

*----------*

*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Feb. 2, 1949*

*Dearest darling: -*

*I hope you are keeping warm and happy, just for me. I sure have plenty of time to think of my darling now a days. The mail train has been in only twice in six days, too much snow.*

*It’s been cold here since it snowed and today was ground hog day, well, he didn’t see his shadow here because it was cloudy and cold and even snowed a little. Did his city cousin see his shadow?*

*I haven’t been doing much except hauling in a little hay now and then, shoveling a little snow and keeping myself happy and warm.*

*I guess my favorite tune now a days is, you guessed it, hm, “I Got My Love to Keep Me Warm” although “I Love You So Much it Hurts” comes pretty high.*

*So, you are working real hard now, I wish I had more to do, so the days would seem shorter and time would fly faster. It seems like three months since I last held you in my arms honey instead of one, but when I realize this is February already, it doesn’t seem so long then.*

*I got our portable on darling, Bing Crosby program is on and he is singing “Pretty Baby.” Everybody loves a baby.*

*Fr. Ed came over to spend the evening Monday. Fr. Ed said he didn’t have any lights for two days after the blizzard. Fr. Ed said he did his cooking in the furnace - he put his coffee pot and tea kettle on some hot coals in the furnace and burned the handle off of them. Fr. Ed is well and happy so please don’t - - -. I went over to spend an evening with Fr. Ed last night, we moved the [Xmas] crib to the back of the church. Fr. Ed had the twins come over last nite for a while, they took down the branches off the altars and dusted the altar also. Fr. Ed was going to say mass this morning at 8:30 AM being it was Candlemas.*

*Sis is playing solitaire, that’s the only time it’s quiet. Ha*

*Always yours, honey*

*Glenn*

----------

9º above, cloudy and warmer

2517 Prairie Ave

Chicago 16, Ill

February 1, 1949

Dearest Darling,

Hi Your little girl’s kinda happy this evening. You’ll never guess why – I got a new needle for my phonograph. It’s “ruby” tipped! Class – huh? I haven’t had my phonograph working all these weeks since I’m back. The other needle got lost or something while I was gone. But now I finally got a needle again and its fun hearing songs I like.

One of the kids is crazy about Polkas! She picked up six records at a phonograph sale last month and had been asking to try them out. Tonight we played them all. Some of them are really very good.

I started this [letter] earlier in the evening and since then have had three of the kids drop in and so now the time has literally slipped away. Shan’t write much more for tonight.

Honey, why don’t I hear from you?? Are you snow bound? Don’cha love me anymore??? Hm. It seems just ages and ages since I’ve seen you.

Feb 27 111 days 2644

March 30 x24 hours \_\_\_+9

April 30 2664 hrs 2673 hours til 9 AM May 24th

May 23\_\_\_\_\_\_

111 days + 9 hours till 9 AM on May 24th

It’s midnight, so its February 2nd, 1949

Hi! Again! Darling mine – how are you! Are you missing me as I miss you? You said you do in your letter today and you answered all my questions asked, on page one! You were snow-bound and you do love me. I had to wait five and a half days to hear it from you again. Golly that old man winter is really treating me very badly. What good does it do when the sun shines brightly out here if it snows out in Nebraska and I can’t get a letter from you? In fact, while I’m writing, I worry whether your snow bound someplace. Please take good care of yourself for me – won’t you?

I haven’t written for a few days now, but you’ll have enough mail piled up by the time the mail comes through again so I don’t worry! Thursday night (a week ago) I spent at Rosemary’s and Frank’s home. They picked me up after duty and then I ‘specialed’ her Mom Friday (hey, I think I wrote you Friday night! Pardon the repetition here then) Saturday through. Sr. Matilda asked me to please ‘special’ a friend that went to surgery that day. So reluctantly I consented to that day. I worked 7 AM till 11 PM with a half hour off between shifts. Sunday I was worn out and didn’t accomplish anything worthwhile. In fact, haven’t done much at all this week until tonight. Tonight we had the movie “Luck of the Irish” at the amphitheater and I attended it. Laughed a great deal – it was so funny.

Been up to see “Harvey” – she’s the girl who was up in my room yesterday with the Polkas. We had a good time discussing everything – mostly nursing. I think if I weren’t going to be doing greater things, I’d help revise a few things in the nursing field! My future is much brighter than that!! Just think, a lifetime together!!!

After the movie tonight honey, I had to go to O.B. nursery to give one of the girls up there a book. I was greeted by a nurse holding a three-day-old baby that had to be fed. See darling – you can’t go in – you have to stand at the door – because otherwise you contaminate the place. Anyway, I just begged her to let me contaminate that lil baby’s toes – and she let me kiss the toes – real quiet like. I was so thrilled.

My precious, goodnight

Del

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2517 Prairie Ave

Chicago 16, Ill

February 3, 1949

Today was my day off. We are going on a five- and half-day week and so tomorrow I only work four hours and I don’t have to go on until 7:30 PM till 11:30 PM. I went shopping this afternoon. Got two pair of shoes. One pair of duty shoes and one pair of black dress shoes. The black ones are very plain pumps with a medium heel and feel very dressy on. Look pretty chic on too! Don’t worry about the heel because I’m certain it isn’t too high! (gotta stay my boy’s little girl, you know)

Tonight, I went to the dentist again. I didn’t even have an appointment but called up and said I could come out if he could fit me in his schedule somewhere. He did this very obligingly. He’s a good Joe that way! Had my gold crown fitted but it needs a little more work on it so I am still minus it. I’ll be so pretty – your queen – when I get my crown!

Right now, your princess doesn’t feel so great – I got car-sick on the street car. Been riding too many of them today.

Before I close, I must tell you what else I did while shopping downtown. I went browsing around looking at wedding gowns so I could have some idea as to style and price. Saw one I liked quite a lot – the top I like – but not the bottom too well. Of course, it may look better on. However, before I try any on, I want to go to several places and see what they’re showing etc. and then when I half-way decide what I like, I want to go along with someone to have a friend’s honest opinion. I’d love to have Esse along, but I don’t know if I can wait that long. It’s real exciting honey, looking at gowns and then trying to find the right kind so’s to charm you with. You probably won’t even notice it too much, you’ll be so excited. It will be so wonderful – O.W.D. – because darling we will truly be together forever and ever. I love you so much yet the preparations for it are almost as exciting as the day itself will be!

Loving you faithfully,

Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Feb 4, 1949*

*Dearest darling:*

*How is the weather darling? Is there a lot of snow there too? It hasn’t snowed here since the blizzard last week, the sun was out a little while today, but not long through, it wasn’t so cold either for a change.*

*This afternoon I went to Columbus for a while, I went to see my landlord also. The highway to Columbus is pretty good except, where there are trees along the road, there is some snow and ice.*

*The records I sent for darling came here, I wrote that they should forward them to you, but I guess they weren’t able to read my scribbling, so I mailed them today in Columbus. I hope they arrive in one piece for you.*

*Fr. Ed came over for a while last night. Fr. Ed called Esse last night to find out how the family was. Fr. Ed talked like he would go to Chicago the last week of the month. He told Esse she should write to him to let him know whether it would be alright to come then. Fr. Ed brought his camera over last night and wanted me to take a few pictures of the snow drifts and my place. Fr. Ed said he took a few pictures of the snow drifts close to Saint Mary’s.*

*I guess we’re pretty lucky around here yet as far as winter is concerned. About 30-40 miles north and west of Columbus, farmers and towns are partially buried with snow and are receiving Air Force and government aid as is western Nebraska, Wyoming and Utah, I guess sunny California is getting more snow also.*

*I’m listening to “our portable” honey as I’m writing, it sure keeps your boy happy in the cold, long winter evenings.*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

*P.S. “Daj mi buzi!” hm? Here’s one for you honey XXX*

---------

106 days or 2552 hours

153,120 minutes till O.W.D.

2517 Prairie Ave

Chicago 16, Ill

February 6, 1949

Darlin’ o’ mine –

I got your last letter under very exciting circumstances last Friday. I was working my half-day in the evening and amid all the confusion on the floor I got this phone call from the downstairs office. There was a letter there from a Glenn Kresha. Boy did I send my aide down in a hurry. I just got to read through very quickly when I got it because I was terribly busy. One of my patients had a bad hemorrhage and was a plenty sick cookie. Of course, after giving him a stimulant, applying heat and blood, we snapped him out of it pretty well. He’s fine now. He’s an older man of almost 56 years of age. Anyway, I couldn’t have been busier that evening and I didn’t get to sit down till 11 o’clock. Before doing my charting, I took time to read your very special letter!

Golly, Fr. Ed was really in a bad fix during that last blizzard. I hope your winter time ends soon. He most probably starved for two days without being able to cook. I wish Phil would stay with him all winter and then I wouldn’t worry too much. So much could happen and no one would even know. Darling, you don’t know how happy I am that you go out to see Father so often.

Ever since you wrote about ordering the records from Omaha, I’ve been keeping my eye out for them. I’m very anxious to hear “A Night in May” again. You know I haven’t heard it since I left you in January! I know I’ll like the “Blue Eyes Waltz” if it’s one of your favorites!

Tonight, I slept through our favorite Sunday night program. Slept from 6:30 till 9. Had a full day – up at seven. Anyway, I felt sorry about missing it. Sometimes I think I feel closer – like when we’re not so far away when I think we’re both listening to the same program.

Always yours forever,

Lil’ girl – Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Feb 7, 1949*

*Dearest Darling:*

*Yesterday the sun was shining when I got up and it was the first time in a long that I had seen a perfect sunset with a clear sky. I know it came from your letters, they were full of love and sunshine, just for me, I know.*

*Yesterday was so nice I went to early mass. In the afternoon Martin and Alois Shemek came over and wanted to take Allan and me up flying. We went to a small air field by Shelby, but the manager had gone himself on a flying trip so we were unable to rent a plane. I did take a few pictures as it was the first nice day. I took several pictures of the snow banks on the road where the snow plow opened. Fr. Ed took about 8 pictures of the snow drifts near Saint Mary’s, then Fr. Ed gave me it to finish the roll, I also took some with my toy camera. I do hope they’re good pictures because they would be interesting pictures to look back on in winters to come. I’ll send the best ones to you, but here’s hoping they turn out good.*

*Last nite, Martin and Alois, Allan and I sent to see “Pale Face” in Osceola with Bob Hope and Jane Russell. It was in color and good for a least a thousand laughs, I really enjoyed it. Bob Hope sang “Buttons and Bows.” Have you seen this picture honey?*

*So, my darling is shopping for her wedding dress. Gee, when you say that, I feel excited inside, and realize our wedding day really isn’t too far away any more.*

*Well darling I’ll close for now. I haven’t done my chores yet, so better think of doing them real soon. I also went to Osceola for a while.*

*Your only,*

*Glenn*

*----------*

*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Feb. 8, 1949*

*Dearest Darling: -*

*It’s really peacefully and quiet here tonite, I’m spending the evening home alone, except for your love in my heart.*

*The folks and Sis went to see a show in Osceola tonite, “Pale Face” the one I saw Sunday evening, I told them to take my car and go see it, as it is a good laughable clean movie.*

*Allan took Martin S to Columbus tonite to get his car, as he had it in a garage getting fixed.*

*I’ve been listening to the Bob Hope and Fibber McGee show and now I’ve music by Russ Morgan and his orchestra.*

*Can’t think of a thing I’d rather do on a wintry evening, as to have a couple of soft easy chairs close to the radio, with my sweetest darling in one and I in the other listening to the radio or playing double solitaire, darling it will be wonderful, won’t it? Very fittingly the Russ Morgan band is playing “Just For Now,” but some day really soon it will be always with you.*

*It’s been very nice here the past three days, the sun has been shining, but it hasn’t been warm enough to thaw much yet, but comparing today with last week, it feels like spring can’t be too far away. Today’s been real short for me darling, shall I tell you why hmm? Well it was 12 o’clock [noon] when I got up; when I woke up I thought it was about 9 AM but when I looked at my watch… I didn’t realize I could sleep that long! That’s the kind of boy your getting, honey, a sleepy head. But as soon as the weather breaks for the farmer, I’ll have to start getting up with the chickens.*

*Fr. Ed and Martin K came over last nite to spend an evening. We visited for a while, then played a friendly game of “black magic.” Your boy broke even and had lots of fun.*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

-----------

2517 Prairie Ave

Chicago 16, Ill

February 8, 1949

My very own darlin’,

Yesterday the records came. It was grand to hear “A Night in May” again. My – I was almost in Nebraska sitting on your lap and listening to “our song.” The “Blue Eyes Waltz” was real cute and I’ve been able to play it about four times. It had a bad crack in it. In fact, the only thing holding the record together was the label! However, since it is a new record, it played a few times without the crack bothering too much. Now however, the crack is pretty annoying so I can’t play it much.

Look at this stationery! [thin linen] Every time I write to you I surprise you with some other type of stationery! Remember the Sister I told you about that had these bad burn scars? Well, today she went to surgery. Her name is Sr. Genevieve. Anyway, I’m ‘specialing’ her from 6-11 tonight. She is simply a darling and when I took care of her this summer, I promised I’d help if I could when she had surgery again. Well, at present she’s back on our floor and I will ‘special’ her tonight and tomorrow night. She didn’t have as extensive surgery done as they thought she would most probably had to have. I think a lot of her! She’s a darling.

Between 7:30 and 8:30 tonight she had company, so I sat out at the desk and began this letter. In the meantime, Dr. Janet Tawnie came on our floor. She’s a marvelous obstetrician. Anyway, she takes lessons on how to become a magician and is just a whiz at doing difficult tricks. She sat there showing us card tricks that are almost unbelievable. Much fun watching. My patient is dozing now so I thought I’d finish up my letter!

20+31+30+23=104 days plus 10 hours. 104 days X 24 hours=2,496 hours plus the 10 on the 24th = 2,506 hours. See honey, it isn’t too long anymore! I shall wait impatiently for the day that I’ll see you! Honey dear – won’t it be wonderful??!!

Loving you! [big red wet lipstick kiss]

Del

P.S. Thank you darling for the records! It’s so good to hear them! They remind me of the happy dances we went to together!

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[Valentine’s Day cards were exchanged]

2664 No. Hoyne Ave Apt 26

Chicago 47, Ill

February 10, 1949

Darling –

I was a little disappointed this evening. You see I thought I’d get to call and talk to you personally since I had to call and let Father know he was a new uncle. Anyway it was nice talking to your Dad [Leo Kresha]. I could hear him real well although I don’t know if he was able to hear me as well.

I made it to see Esse tonight and also the new “cuddle bunny!” Esse is feeling real good and the baby is simply a doll! She weighed 7 pounds and 12 ¼ ounces. She is very pretty – pink and sweet! She was born at 8:30 PM last night, February 9th. She is certainly a lovely Valentine’s present! Mm – wait till she comes home. I’m sure we’ll all spoil her to death.

Well I moved in to the Kreski household, bag and baggage last night. It’s fun staying with the children. I’m brushing up fast on my cooking. So far – not too bad, but I don’t know how long my good luck will last.

I have to wake up early to send Delphine to school, so good night my darling – I’ll see you soon – won’t I! I can hardly wait!

Love – it’s yours forever-

Del

----------

*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Feb. 12, 1949*

*Dearest Darling:*

*Gee honey I wish I’d stayed home once in a while, especially when my darling calls me up. I was real happy to hear Esse has a baby girl. [Penny] I suppose Ricky and little Delphine won’t want to go to school, so they can take care of their new sister. I was going to write last nite honey but I thought I’d go over to Fr. Ed’s and tell him the good news, Allan went along with me and fixed an electric outlet for Fr. Ed. Then Fr. Ed made some coffee and we listened to the phonograph for a while. I guess you were right about sending records by mail, the records were alright when I opened them here, but I guess after I mailed them again it happened, what fate, though, that the “Night in May” record was OK, I’d feel real bad if it had gotten broken instead the Waltz.*

*I suppose you were wondering where I was the night she called, hm? Well I was half way to Chicago, where I reached my destination, Marshalltown, Iowa. I sent to the Wolf Clinic there, which a Doctor in Columbus had recommended. He said astigmatism could be corrected easier and better with contact lenses, so I went there to see if they recommended it, after a checkup. They recommended them in my case, in every way. Being I farm, they could eliminate the glare and are safer to wear because they’re made of plastic. I suppose darling, you’ve heard of them, they’re shaped to fit the eyeball and it fits under the eye lid and aren’t noticeable, but they are expensive from $150 to $200 because of the skill and precision work of a specialist. Does my darling recommend them also, hmm? Fr. Ed thought that someday they would replace the common eye glasses, when they don’t cost so much, and that he would get himself a pair of them.*

*Well tonite darling, we’re having a small blizzard again, doesn’t sound good, does it, but true.*

*Today, or this afternoon I went to Columbus for a while, Dad went along, we were going to buy some cattle, but we couldn’t buy them at our price, so will wait till we can or later after the weather clears up and spring is here.*

*Gee, I just about forgot to tell you – I rode on your wonderful train the City of Denver. As the roads were icy, I left my car in Columbus, Wednesday evening took a 6:15 PM train. The following evening, I got on the City of Denver at Marshalltown at 9:35 PM and got into Columbus at 2 AM. Also, I could get fitted for contact lenses now, but it would take about four or five trips to Marshalltown and at least six days the Doctor said, and said it would be best if I wait later in the year, when they’ll have a special clinic and they could do it in one day, with less expense.*

*Well I got pictures back I took and am sending them to you, your boy might get to be a “photo bug” if he has as good luck taking them as he did taking these.*

*Well, it’s twenty minutes away from a new day, a nicer one I hope, so good nite and sweet dream, because I’ll always love you my precious darling.*

*Your baby,*

*Glenn*

----------

[on thin gridded sketch paper for Universal Oil Product Company, Engineering Department, now known as Honeywell, where brother-in-law Richard Kreski worked as an engineer.]

Subject: A letter to my Sweetheart

Date: 2-13-49

For: Glenn Kresha

By: Delphine J.

Dearest Darling,

As I am starting this letter our favorite program is coming on! This is all the stationery I can find at present, so I hope you’ll excuse it!

“Powder your face with sunshine” they’re playing. Honey, I have been fine, but all of a sudden this evening the blues hit me and I’m very, very lonesome for you! I know it won’t be too long now and I shall be seeing you again. When are you coming? ? ? The weather is not at all wintry here. In fact, the snow of a week ago is all melted and last night it rained.

I’ve been real busy keeping house. It’s all sort of make believe – I can hardly believe I am managing the children so well. We have gotten along beautifully and I haven’t had to read too many stories for them. I read to them Friday night and tonight. Last night they had baths to take and I see Delphine’s hair. She looked real pretty today. Delphine goes to the dancing school every Saturday and I took her. Then we walked over to the post office to mail your Valentine. There is a post office here a real long walk away so I waited till I took her to school. It was much easier. I hope you get it for Valentine’s Day.

Today I didn’t have to cook. Rich made breakfast because I went to 11 o’clock mass. He went to noon mass. We all slept late. Then we went to the children’s grandma’s for dinner. Boy it was good to eat someone else’s cooking.

Esse should be coming home Thursday. It will be fun to have the baby here. I can’t wait to hold it and take care of it! Especially when they’re so little – they are like little angels – sleeping most of the time.

They’re playing that song again – “I Love You So Much it Hurts” – I want to hold you my dear for ever and ever – believe me I do!

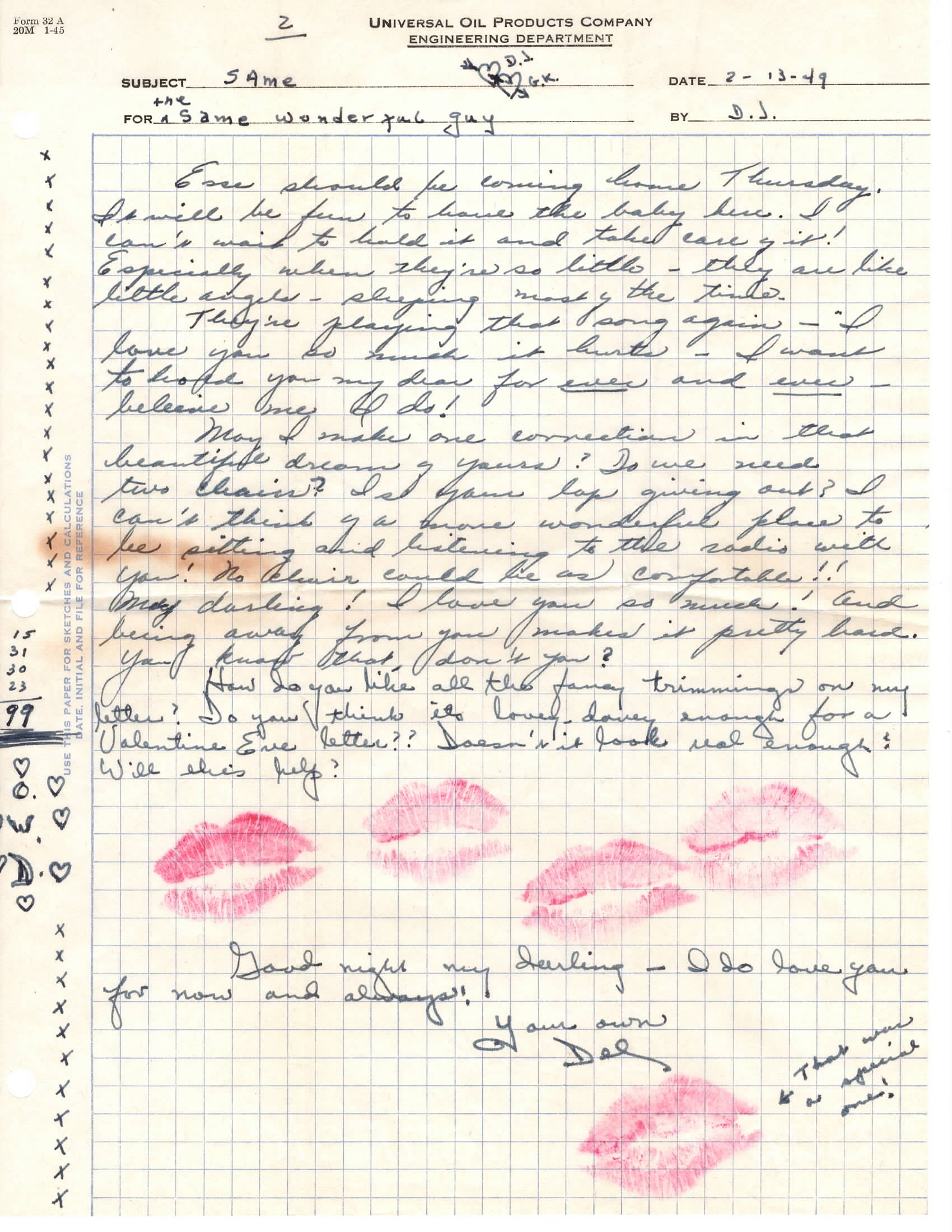
May I make one correction in that beautiful dream of yours? Do we need two chairs? Is your lap giving out? I can’t think of a more wonderful place to be sitting and listening to the radio with you! No chair could be as comfortable!! My darling! I love you so much! And being away from you makes it pretty hard. You know that, don’t you?

How do you like the fancy trimmings on my letter? Do you think its lovey-dovey enough for a Valentine Eve letter?? Doesn’t it look real enough? Will this help?

[5 deep red lipstick kisses on the letter, hearts with an arrow through it with initials and calculations that indicate only 99 more days till O.W.D. surrounded by hearts and in fancy script]

Your own

Del



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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Feb. 14, 1949*

*Dearest Darling:*

*Hello and a happy valentine day to my darling: I had a lot of mail today from my dearest little girl. Thank you darling with all my heart for the billfold and beautiful valentines.*

*So, my darling is a house keeper now, how is it? Gee honey, I’ve been sending your mail to the Nurses Home, but I know you’ll eventually get it. Send me your new phone number in case your boy wants to call his darling. My letter will be short tonite darling, Fr. Ed wants me to come over tonite and help him in the church.*

*We are digging out from a new snow storm now, and hope they’ll end real soon.*

*Say hello darling to the family to Ricky and lil Del hm?*

*Yours alone,*

*Glenn*

*P.S. Excuse the scribbling honey, I guess I scooped too much snow today.*

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Feb 15, 1949*

*Dearest Darling: -*

*As I wrote last nite darling, I went over to Fr. Ed’s house last nite, Martin K also there. We worked on the Crib in the church. It wouldn’t fit in back of the church under the stairway, so we had to trim the roof to make it fit. Fr. Ed was also touching up the Last Supper picture on the main altar. Fr. Ed said he was to see Mrs. Kaczor in the afternoon, I guess she has had two strokes in the last few weeks.*

*The sun out and the snow is melting a little. Most of the roads are reopened again after the last snow. I sure hope that was the last snow storm for the yea, but I guess we can expect another month of winter, mild or otherwise. But here’s hoping darling with all your wonderful love in my heart, that the little robins will be bobbin along real soon hmm?*

*Today the snow plow opened up my road to the place, so now I can drive up to the place again, I have been walking from the main road, I didn’t mind it for a while darling, I needed the experience.*

*Allan and Martin S went to a wedding dance in Genoa tonite, the roads aren’t clear off very good in that direction, but they went any.*

*Today I went to a farm sale east of Silver Creek, the guy that runs the new dance hall in Silver Creek had the sale. I bought five Angus (black) cows and two small calves to build up my herd.*

*Well darling, I’ll close for now…*

*Yours always,*

*Glenn*

*----------*

*Osceola, Nebr.*

*Feb 18, 1949*

*My dearest darling:*

*Well I suppose by now Esse and her little doll is home and my darling is having a wonderful time helping take care of her, hm?*

*Fr. Ed came over to spend an evening Thursday. Fr. Ed didn’t think he would be able to come out there, because of Mrs. Kaczor and a lady from Saint Joe’s, who may need him.*

*So, my darling wants to know when I’m coming hm? When do you want me to come? I’ve been thinking, I’d like to come out before Lent, but that isn’t very far away now either, so I guess I’ll wait and hear what you have to say, even the old weather man has his say too, I guess, because he has been pretty mean all over.*

*It was real nice here yesterday, and the snow melted quite a bit, and it was nice this morning for a while any way, when all of a sudden the wind turned to the north and it clouded over and got quite cold, but this evening it cleared off and the big old lonely moon is casting a light on the snow. That was all we got out of a storm forecasted to be coming from Canada. (enough I’m sure)*

*Last nite Alois, Allan and I went to a wedding dance in Shelby, Betty Augustine marred a fellow from Rising City. The couple had six attendants, the bride’s attendants were dressed in pink and blue.*

*It was a free dance and the crowd showed it. This morning I went to Osceola to get some repairs for Allan’s tractor and this afternoon I went to a Manufacturing Exposition in Columbus, put on by 31 companies.*

*Your boy*

*Glenn*

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2664 No. Hoyne Ave apt 26

Chicago 47, Ill

Feb. 20, 1949

My darling,

I must tell you how wonderful it was to hear your voice again over the phone. It was just out of this world! I was real tired and blue. Hearing your voice made me feel wonderful all over again. Darling, I do love you so and miss you so very, very much. I was so happy to be able to get in touch with you. The operator had a hard time getting the line through. I didn’t try calling till almost ten since I figured you would be out of town.

Today I had a day off. Yep, I left all my house-hold duties to pick up my valentine from my darling boy! The box was just beautiful honey! It really was! And the candy – we are all enjoying it at the Kreski household!

I have so very much to write that I hardly know where to begin. I guess my honey and his eyes are the most important. I have asked around since you have written about these contact lenses and have found (after my survey) that on the whole they would be quite impractical. You see the eye normally secrets a fluid that cleans the eye. With these contact lenses this does not happen and the lack of this causes an irritation to the eye. The fluid is supplied artificially and as this one nurse told me, if you have 15 minutes out of every hour to wash out you eye, etc. – they’re okay. She knew a girl who had them – in fact, she knew a few people and they all claim they are not practical at all. [now in pencil] For people who have to get up in front of the public for speeches often and are self-conscious of their glasses – they are okay. Rich knows a man at work who has a pair but does not wear them to work since they irritate his eyes. You see honey, I heard of these lenses but had no idea what they were like after people wore them. Though they have many advantages, they also have many disadvantages and they are costly enough for one to consider both sides before making a decision. If they were a $50 investment it wouldn’t be so bad but if you pay as large a sum as you mentioned, you would rightfully expect a lot from them. I wish so many people were not dissatisfied in them so that they would really work practically as they do theoretically. I don’t think beauty is as important as properly fitted glasses that give your eyes the utmost comfort and can correct or improve your eye condition. I don’t mean that your glasses should be out-moded etc. but I think its very important that they are correctly fitted for your eyes.

[switch back to ink] Rich wanted to use the pen for a while and so I traded – even if I dislike penciled letters. After all – its his pen. However, I stopped in between here to feed “Penny.” She is so adorable. I could eat her up sometimes cause she’s so sweet! She’s an awfully good baby really!

Even if I haven’t written. I was all worn out today so they shagged me out for change of scenery. There was so much to do to get started on a system of setting up baby in a new household. She was a few weeks early and so there were a lot of things that we didn’t have ready for her. Then, too, instead of me being all set with a few things like have the wash up to date when Esse came home, I got sick on Valentine’s day and ran a 1026º fever. Chills and fever and nauseated tummy and inflamed tonsils. No more. Tuesday, I made myself get up in the afternoon and get the place a little orderly for Esse’s homecoming. They sent her home on her sixth day, earlier than we expected really, so we had a busy week. Then too, toward the end of the week I didn’t feel like writing because I was expecting Father [Ed] and you to come in since it was just before Lent. After next week, Lent starts and things will be busy for Father I know. I’m sorry to hear about Mrs. Kaczor though. It is pretty hard on them all I’m sure.

Thank you for all the mail, pictures and Valentines. One of these evenings I’ll re-read them again (for the 10th time) and answer your questions. Right now I want to finish so Rich can mail this in the morning.

Yours always

Del

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**Apparently, Glenn went to Chicago to visit Del the week of February 20th, as he was there on Sunday, February 27th, left March 2nd according to the next letters:**

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*March 4, 1949*

*Dearest Darling: -*

*It was all so wonderful meeting your folks darling, getting acquainted with them seemed to bring my love for you closer than ever and the wonderful times we had together were so very wonderful and enjoyable to me, the time we spend together seemed so very short and it all seems like a big wonderful dream. It was that way because you’re so wonderful and I love you so very much, and I want to thank my precious darling for showing me such a wonderful time. I want to return it darling in our life time of love and companionship together forever and ever.*

*The train was full most of the way back from Chicago. I felt real blue leaving darling, about eleven o’clock I fell asleep and when the train stopped in Columbus, the conductor had to wake me up, pretty good, hmm?*

*Well, it looks like spring is just around the corner here darling. It was 60º here today. The snow is about three-fourths melted away. The snow has been melting slowly since from the time I came to see my darling. There won’t be any serious flooding here because the snow melted slow at first. There is quite a bit of water running across the roads where there are dips in the roads which may last for three or four days. Most of the roads won’t be as bad as expected because the snow was pushed in the ditches.*

*I haven’t seen Fr. Ed since I’ve been home yet, I’ll probably see by Sunday though. The roads by Saint Mary’s are pretty muddy now and also some water going across the road will stop a car going through.*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

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2517 Prairie Ave

Chicago 16, Ill

March 7, 1949

Dearest Darling –

I have been waiting to write for just ages it seems. But you know how it is around the Kreski household – its almost impossible to get down to writing. I knew though that tonight I’d have to write or I’d be wrong!

Well, the bassinet got finished and looked like a dream for the baptism. It still looks like a fairy tale fluff! I’m proud of it since I made it all myself. Necessity is the mother of invention and I work well under pressure!

There isn’t much to write about except about Penny. I’m rather limited in conversation since I haven’t been doing much else except helping Esse. I did go shopping Friday for Delphine’s birthday present and Penny’s baptismal gift. I got both girls rings. Delphine was thrilled with her ring. I got Penny a real-tiny ring and also an educator set – a fork and teaspoon when she starts eating by herself. It’s real cute.

Penny was baptized with pomp and ceremony yesterday; it was a double ceremony – it was also Delphine’s birthday. Anyway, we ran a big dinner for the grandparents, god-parents, and some other people that dropped in. We all had a real nice time. Baby Penny was just an angel all day long! Honestly, she was just an angel.

I wonder sweetheart if your listening to the same radio program tonight – our very favorite orchestra, Guy Lombardo! Playing at the moment – “Come to Me My Melancholy Baby!” Then “Pretty Baby” and right now “When My Baby Smiles at Me.” Darling, when you do – you can chase all the blues away! I don’t think I told you how grateful I was for the smiles you gave me at the station when I was so very blue. Thank you darling! Gosh honey, just like the song Guy is playing, “I Don’t Want to Walk Without You, Ever”- sweetheart!

Esse said to tell you “Love Me – Love Me – Love Me Honey” – the song over the radio. I know you do sweetheart, know why? Cause you told me so! Honey, I’d love to be sitting near you with my head on your shoulder.

We had fun taking pictures of Penelope Joyce with her professional helper. We took separate ones of Rich and Esse feeding her and also pictures of the two of them feeding her together and just gobs of poses. Shot through two rolls of film tonight. They took pictures last night but mostly of the company so today they wanted family pictures. I dressed up in my uniform for the pictures. I hope they come out okay. How are the pictures we took together? I hope they come out good – honest I do!

It’s 1AM now so I definitely have to sign off for now.

Loving you always

Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*March 6, 1949*

*Dearest Darling:*

*Just to think last Sunday evening [Feb 27] I was spending the day with you and your wonderful Dad and family. The days are about twice as long now, that’s the way they seem to me, since I’m away from you, but I guess that’s life.*

*Yes, the bashful old sun came out there since I left darling. It’s been real nice here since I been back. The snow is melting away a little more each day. The water here in the creeks has gone down and, in a day or so, all roads will be passable again. The spring thaw has been real mild compared to the flood they are having in eastern Nebraska and in Iowa.*

*Our weather forecast is for more nice sunny weather, I guess Jack Frost is slowly losing ground.*

*Well, did little Penny get baptized today? I really miss Delphine and especially little Ricky, they’re so much fun to play with and talk to.*

*I suppose Fr. Ed is beginning to wonder if I came back since the water going through the dips has kept me from seeing him; but now that it is going down I probably get to see him in a day or two.*

*The pictures should be finished Monday, honey, so I’ll send them real soon.*

*It was real nice this morning so I went to early mass 8:30 AM in Osceola and this afternoon fed my hungry livestock.*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

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Osceola, Nebr.

March 9, 1949

Dearest Darling:

Yesterday it snowed a little here, but it all melted today, as the sun was shining and it warmed up to about 40º. I’m think in about two or three weeks we will be able to start working in the fields.

Allan and I went over to Fr. Ed’s Monday evening; Fr. Ed and Allan straightened out the altar, as it was sagging a little in the center. And I cut some Linoleum [floor covering] for the steps on the altar.

We got stuck going over to Fr. Ed’s and had to get a tractor to pull us out and then when we came back we took a different road.

Fr. Ed went to see Fr. Kean yesterday in Shelby, but Fr. Kean wasn’t home, so Fr. Ed came over and had supper with us and spent the evening here also. I told Fr. Ed about the wonderful time I had visiting your folks and seeing the windy city of Chicago. Fr. Ed was hoping Esse would change Penny’s name, as he didn’t like the name. He was very happy to hear that your Dad was coming to Nebraska for our wedding.

I’m sending the pictures we took and the ones Richard took also. Most of them are pretty I think, but the ones of my darling are very good. I showed them to Fr. Ed and he thought they were all good he wanted me to get an enlargement of the picture I took of you, it’s a very good picture.

Always yours,

Glenn

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2517 Prairie Ave

Chicago 16, Ill

March 13, 1949

Dearest Sweetheart,

I have been on duty since Wednesday. It was certainly hard to get used to the routine. I have been just tired out after each day of duty. I guess my feet are having a hard time getting used to the routine of running every day. Have been putting in a lot of overtimes.

Thursday, we went shopping – Loretta and I and… guess what? I have my order in for a dress. The dress. The dress in which I will become all yours for keeps. Have you guessed? Yes, its my wedding dress. All I can tell you about it is that its satin. I’m sure you’ll like it when you see it the morning of May 24th.

Right now, I have to leave for a while to wash my hair so it dries. Wanted to listen to our favorite Sunday evening programs. I received three letters from you last week and it has helped make things so much easier to take – honestly!

Golly my pen is running a stubborn streak – I have to coax it to write! [very light green on a grey background – hard to read]

I was thrilled at receiving the pictures! Most of them are real good! Darling you look so real to me. I have such pleasant memories looking at them. You look so handsome and manly! Mary was looking at them and she was mad at the pictures that were blurred. (the ones of my honey, that is. She said she can see me at the times but why did the ones of you have to be blurred! Me too, I feel the same way!

One of these days, when I get ambitious, I’ll send you your rubbers so that you can keep your feet dry out in the flooded areas. I have them with me at the Nurses Home. They’re still enjoying the visit!

Last Tuesday I hear “Blue Skirt!” Tonight they’re playing “So Tired.” These songs bring back memories of one happy Thursday evening – sitting across the table from you! Are you “So Tired?” You won’t have to wait forever dear – only 70 more days!

I’m glad dearest that you enjoyed spending the short visit with the folks. Now you’ll know why I’ll miss Chicago once in a while. It was wonderful having you here. It won’t make the rest of the time left quite so long. I can’t wait till I can get back!

Your very own

Del X X X

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*March 14, 1949*

*Dearest Darling:*

*Is it snowing darling in Chicago, well it is here, it is snowing very lightly her and the ground is white. It isn’t very cold though and it looks like it could quit any time as the sky or clouds are very light.*

*I’ve been helping Dad and Allan haul in hay and I’m also repairing some of our machinery for spring work.*

*We have Stations of the Cross in Osceola on Saturday evening instead of Fridays, so I went Saturday and went to confession after the devotions.*

*Fr. Ed has Devotions on Friday evening and Tuesday or Wednesday at Saint Joe’s.*

*I had a very sweet letter from you Saturday, it did wonders for me honey in making the day so much shorter and happier.*

*I don’t think I can fully realize the wonderful way you fixed little Penny’s bassinet darling. I do know darling you’re an artist in sewing and decorating, but I guess I can’t stop here either, honey because honestly everything you do is done very neatly and beautifully. Of course, I’ll be waiting impatiently for a picture of her crib.*

*I had planned on writing to you last nite, but John Kresha and family came over for a while, so I didn’t have a chance to write till about midnite and I couldn’t keep my eyes open, so I promised myself I’d write this morning to you.*

*It’s about 11 o’clock now darling as I’m writing I have “Welcome Travels” on the radio now from, you guess where, hm?*

*Last nite I tuned in WGN for a while with Parade of Bands, but of the three orchestras that played, I never heard them play before, I guess they were new orchestras getting on the air. I did hear Vaughn Monroe from the Aragon Saturday night for a while, it sure brang back wonderful memories which will never die.*

*Always yours, Glenn*

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2517 Prairie Ave

Chicago 16, Ill

March 15, 1949

1640 hour!

Hello darling. I received your letter today and I was real happy getting it. Of course you over-rate my abilities but I’m happy and proud to have you think I am so capable. As soon as I get to Esse’s I’ll get a picture to send to you.!

Well, you sound real busy getting ready for spring. However, the weather man keeps you slowed down so you don’t have to work too hard. It snowed for a few hours once or twice since you left, but it melted away faster than it came.

It’s been on the cold side though. Wish I had your pocket to keep my hand warm, the strong manly hand that came in your pocket. In short, I wish you were here, I think of you so often! Half my patients these days greet me – how long?? So, I tell them in hours and minutes or days. I have one patient that greets me with, “Well, 68 more days!” And in return I smile and tell him how many hours.

Darling, it’s just these little things that keep me from getting so blue that I’ll take the next train out. I wrote to Fr. Ed the other night and maybe I’ll be able to tell you definitely when I’ll be out.

You seemed quite agreeable that I come back on May 21st. So, I’ll stick it out here if that’s how you want it! Gosh dear, if you don’t want me out there earlier, I certainly am not going to come out no matter how blue I get.

Tomorrow is my day off and I’m going to Maywood in the a.m. I had better go to sleep now, though, if I don’t want to sleep till noon.

Always your own true love,

Delphine X X X

P.S. I forgot I keep meaning to tell you I haven’t heard from Edna. I’ve written a couple of times and I can’t imagine what’s happened to her! Anyways, unless I hear from her soon, I’ll have to forget about her as a bridesmaid. If I hear from her, I’ll let you know otherwise you won’t have to worry about one bad omen.

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*March 16, 1949*

*Dearest Darling:*

*I had a nice letter today from you, darling. It was all the sunshine I had this cloudy wintry day. Its been cloudy and cold here the past few days, not too bad though. There is still some snow on the ground; from Monday - it snowed about two inches then. The roads are pretty rough since the snow first melted off, but as soon as it warms up again – they’ll probably get dragged then. [County road crews pull an implement to smooth out ruts in the once muddy roads]*

*This morning I had a dental appointment in Osceola, I had a tooth filled, the last one he said, till he pulls out a wisdom tooth later on.*

*A couple of electricians are wiring the house and all the buildings on my place now, I’ve been helping them a little. They have the house wired and will work on the yard light and the rest of the place tomorrow. I suppose I’ll have lights in about two or three weeks from now, as they are working on the lines now every day.*

*Sis isn’t around tonite to bother me as she is staying over nite with one of her friends in town. I guess tomorrow is sneak [out of school day] for the seniors and I guess the juniors will be up to some old tricks tomorrow.*

*I’m so happy to hear that you have a pretty dress picked out. With all of my heart darling, I know you’ll be the prettiest and sweetest bride I ever want to see and want to spend the rest of my life with you.*

*To lighten things darling, here’s a joke I read about and got a bang out of it, so I thought I’d write it down for you, sweetheart.*

*“After the wedding, the happy couple were photographed as they left the church and proofs were promised in a few days. The large envelope duly arrived and was opened in great excitement. Inside were several studies of a baby lying on a rug and on the back, they read: “please state clearly which size you want – and how many.”*

*Could be better, hm, darling?*

*I haven’t seen Fr. Ed this week yet, I probably go to devotions in Saint Mary’s Friday evening and then I may drop for a short stay.*

*Always you,*

*Glenn*

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*March 18, 1949*

*Dearest Darling:*

*…Yesterday we had a few snow flurries and today it was a spring-like day, with temperatures getting to about 50º. Well, we have only three days of winter left, I’m so glad to see it go, you too honey?*

*Today I turned my cattle out in the cornfield for the first time this year. Up to a week ago there was too much snow in the fields for them to find anything to eat. I also dug a hole for another yard light, we’re going to have two yard-lights, honey, one by the house and another by the windmill. The electrician didn’t work today, they will come back on Monday with another yard light pole and finish then. John Gerber is the electrician, he did a lot of wiring for Fr. Ed, maybe you remember him.*

*I haven’t got my new tractor yet, but I’m hoping it comes in next week because it won’t be too long before I’ll be needing it.*

*I had planned on going over to see Fr. Ed tonite, but the roads are still bad in places yet, so I’ll wait till next week.*

*Gee honey, that “Blue Skirt Waltz” really must be getting popular in Chicago, I suppose, Frankie will be singing it on the “hit” parade soon, hm? I think I’ve heard the “Blue Skirt Waltz” three or four times since we listened to it together that one evening, while we were having supper. I even heard our favorite, “Night in May” twice this week.*

*Honey, who (orchestra) would you like to play “Night in May” that certain, our night in May?*

*I surely hope hone you hear from your girl friend Edna, because of what you’ve told me about her, she would be fun to have in our wedding party.*

*Honey, you hurt my feelings when you said I didn’t care if you come till May 21st, don’t you remember I wanted to bring you back with me, when I was in Chicago, hm?*

*Always, yours forever,*

*Glenn*

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[letter in pencil, note pad size]

1535 hours, 20 minutes, 30 seconds

2517 Prairie Ave

Chicago 16, Ill

March 21, 12:45 AM

Dearest of mine –

I’ve just come off duty about a half hour ago and I’m all ready for dream land – must write to my darling and let him know I’m just “mad about him.” I’m listening to Ray Pearle – on of our very special orchestras. He keeps playing sweet songs and playing “Say Something Sweet to Your Sweetheart” – so I keep writing sweet things from within my heart just for you.

Feels like just ages ago since I’ve written an honest to goodness letter. Must have last week Tuesday. Did write a lil ole card Thursday but that doesn’t count for much

My pen is getting repaired and I’m at a loss – must use a pencil which I detest using for letters. But I know honey you’d rather have a penciled letter than none at all.

I spent last Tuesday evening at the capping ceremony and Wednesday I went to Maywood. Had a gay time with the children. Andy was away from school again, but he was the only sick child and he was convalescing. We studied –(spelling) read stories – sang- and had a gay time. I make little Margie real happy by polishing her toe-nails and finger-nails. I always have a hard time getting her to talk to me. She’s such a beautiful child but eventually she forgets herself and talks away to me. I stayed overnight and returned Thursday in time to go on duty for 3:30-11:30 shift. I wasn’t in longer than 5 minutes when my buzzer sounded off. I went down stairs and was greeted by a box of roses. Was I flying high after that! It was so sweet of you! Friday, I worked my half day 3 to 7. After duty I went to church for Stations of the Cross. I ironed till about 1 AM. Have all my blouses etc., all clean now.

Oh, I went shopping Friday morning and got a few personal things and a lovely cuddly nylon sweater. I’m saving it to wear just for you! Its real soft and lovely. Hm – especially the soft and cuddly part -. It doesn’t itch like a wool sweater and is real light weight and very comfortable.

Mary and Cil were here this weekend and we had an enjoyable evening Saturday. About 9 o’clock we went out and ate (French Fried Shrimp!!) Very lush! I went to12:15 mass this morning. Slept till then, and have worked all evening, 3:30 – 11:30. Working the same hours tomorrow or is it today (now 1 AM). Monday wash day I guess – so we’ll have to do up my uniforms. Must go to sleep soon darling’ or I won’t get up at 10:30 like I am planning to do.

Before I close – must explain the yellow certificate. Would you like to get the Bride’s Book for me? I don’t know where the Keepsake Jeweler is here and I’d like a copy of the book. It will be fun to fix up after we’re married. I’m so sure you’ll enjoy helping me fix it to remember the beautiful memories of our precious love!

Darling, have you seen our Rev. brother lately? Has he mentioned anything about coming out to Chicago? I’d like to know so I can decide when I’m leaving here and so I can tell my darling when to expect me!

Your own “lil girl”

Del

P.S. Am happy to hear the place is getting all wired up! Also, thanks for the cute joke – I enjoyed it! It was cute! Have you decided what age and how many???

----------

*Osceola, Nebr.*

*March 21, 1949*

*Dearest Darling:*

*It really didn’t seem like spring here today although it wasn’t very cold. It’s been raining and snowing off and on all day. It was very nice here Sunday, it was really warm, there isn’t much snow left any more, but there’s plenty of mud around.*

*What kind of weather darling was spring ushered in by in Chicago? I do hope honey that you’re enjoying lots of warm sunshine!*

*I had a nice card from you darling, Saturday. A thank [you] card it was, I do [hope] you enjoyed the flowers honey, because you’re so wonderful and sweet to me.*

*Last night Alois came over and we went to a show in Osceola. The picture was pretty good, it was “When My Baby Smiles at Me” with Betty Grable and Dan Dailey, it also was in color.*

*I had planned on not going to any show in Lent, but when Alois came over all dressed up, well, I figured a show would do me good as there isn’t much I can do, when the evenings sometimes seem so very long. I had planned on writing to you darling last nite, but my Lenten penance, remember?*

*Fr. Ed came over for an evening last nite. Fr. Ed said he has the two side altars apart for remodeling and sanding and painting. Rose and Johnny were helping Fr. paint. Fr. Ed said he was in Omaha last week, Fr. took Phil and Cliff along, they got the monstrance and chalice, which Fr. had refinished.*

*The altar will look real pretty darling for our wedding, thanks to Fr. Ed and Rosie & Johnny.*

*Dad and I were in Stromsburg to get some baby chicks. Dad bought 300 little chicks and I bought a hundred chicks that are a month already. Another party was going to take the chicks when they were just a few days old, but because it was cold, he didn’t want them, so the hatchery kept them until now. By May, honey, they should be big enough to enjoy on the table, hm? May be we can have fried chicken on May 24th hm? I’m keeping them at home for a while, till it warms a little more.*

*This morning I went to Osceola for a while, I took some oats to the County Agent office to be sent to Lincoln for a state germination test for planting.*

*Well darling, counting the days till O.W.D. it’s getting closer all the time, 64 days, just a little over two months.*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

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[in pencil on note pad size paper]

2517 Prairie Ave

Chicago 16, Ill

March 22, 1949

1:30 AM

1495 hrs, 30 min

Darling of mine –

This is going to be a short letter. I have a guest tonight and she keeps interrupting me every five minutes. Proof – it is now 2 AM. I have to go on duty at 10:30 AM so that is why I’m even considering writing at this hour. I was off duty early tonight about five o’clock. Had a little nap from 6 to 9! (how do you like that – little nap!) Called Esse up and talked over an hour and then ironed two uniforms. The girl that is sleeping in my room tonight lives at home and sleeps here when she works 3:30 – 11:30. Anyway I was going to talk to myself out of writing at 1 AM but she insisted that I write. Here it is in the middle of the night and I still don’t have this written. Of course I still don’t have my pens and I hate even getting to this letter with pencil. Of course I know you’ll understand.

It’s been dreary and raining all day along – Sunday it was a gorgeous spring day and I had to stay in and work.

You asked what orchestra I’d like to have play “Night in May” that certain day in May. Well, Ray Pearl would do okay or else maybe Guy Lombardo could fly out. Outside of these two, I don’t know. Of course I’m sure we’ll be able to schedule either of them and I don’t have too great a preference!

Honey, darling, when you said your feelings were hurt, I hope you know I was just kidding about coming out May 21st. I know you’d rather have me out for Easter and I’d love to be there, too. You’ll have to talk to our Rev. brother and let me know what he’s planning on doing. It would be grand if he drove out because I get a headache when I think of moving my junk out to Nebraska. However, if he isn’t coming, I’d like to start packing a few things now.

What are you doing for excitement these days? Me? Why, I’m counting the hours till we’ll be “wedded!” It’s fun to see the hours get knocked off! Keeps me from going positively bugs. I was so tired tonight and when I’m tired it seems like my morale goes down and I was real blue so I kept myself busy sleeping (hard work) and stuff.

Sweet dreams, heart of my heart.

Loving you always

Delphine

P.S. Put lipstick on just for you so you could see the kisses!

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*March 24, 1949*

*Dearest Darling,*

*I had a letter today from you, writing at 1:30 AM. Darling, you’re so wonderful giving up part of your sleeping time to write to me, but please, honey, don’t give up your sleep for me because its more fun dreaming, I know.*

*I went to see Fr. Ed last nite at the hospital, I suppose honey, you got Fr. Ed’s letter. Fr. Ed said he wrote to you Wednesday. Fr. Ed called me from the hospital the day he went, so I’d know where he was. Fr. said he wasn’t sick but the doctor wanted him to stay at the hospital for a few days so he could get penicillin shots. Fr. Ed thought he would be able to go home tomorrow night (Friday). I took Fr. some cigarettes and Fr. was hoping I would think of it.*

*Well, our April showers are coming early this year. We had a shower Monday and last night and again this afternoon very light, then one this afternoon. The good part about the weather is that it is fairly warm lately, even though it would be cloudy.*

*Today Martin K came over and helped Dad and I butcher a “porker.” So, your boy will be eating a big pork chop now and then.*

*I received the coupon that you sent and I’ll be happy to get the book for you.*

*Gee darling, I’m with you when you mentioned Ray Pearl to play for our dance, but I’m wondering if he can play, “A Night in May.” I’ll bet the man hasn’t heard our tune hm? Honestly though I heard a rumor that Ray Pearl was booked to play in Silver Creek after Easter. Well, I’m hoping with you that the rumor’s true, I believe Mr. Pearl would deserve the break, don’t you honey?*

*Have you heard the “Blue Skirt Waltz” honey? I hear it about every day. I heard one program say that the “Blue Skirt Waltz” is thirty-seven years old.*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

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1425 hours, 45minutes, 45 seconds, 59 days, 8 weeks & 3 days

2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Ill

March 25, 1949

My dearest sweetheart,

Hi! It’s about time you got a decent looking letter from your girl. The kids are in for the weekend and I’m using Cil’s pen.

Guess what? Yesterday I had a call to come in for my fitting for my wedding dress. So today I talked Mary into meeting me downtown and going with me. I had my half day off today so I was able to do it. It was thrilling to have “your dress” on dearest. I had to buy different shoes than I intended to wear on O.W.D. so the length of the dress will be correct. They are real cute – you’ll love them with their 3 inch heels and have one inch platform soles. They give me the height that I need. Now please don’t frown like that. If I don’t wear high heels, I won’t look wobbly walking down the aisle. And honey, I’ll be so calm that I have to have help looking a little unsteady. After all it’s not traditional for the bride to be real calm like I’m going to be!!! (I was only foolin’ – these shoes are real cute, very low heeled sandals. Knowing me, I’m sure you must realize that I need something solid to care me through!)

I received your letter Wednesday and I haven’t answered it as yet – tah tah – I should be spanked. Have good excuses but I’m sure I don’t need them – I know you’ll understand.

It’s after midnight again and I’m going to Esse’s tomorrow morning so I can’t sit up too long so I shall have to get busy writing here and not stop so often to dream about my handsome honey!

Fried chicken for our W.D? I didn’t think little baby chicks could grow so fast! That sounds wonderful – my mouth is watering already!! But gosh honey – little baby chicks are just so precious – I can’t picture them being butchered. Guess I had better quit being sentimental or else I shall starve! Believe me – fried chicken sounds wonderful though.

Had a letter from Father Ed today from the hospital. How sick is my brother? I’m real worried about him. I want you to promise me something – you’ll call me up if he isn’t too good – if it’s real serious or something – promise? I worry mainly because I can’t make out what really is wrong. His terminology is hard to understand especially when he forgets the important words of some of his sentences! I guess he’s on the blue side – but being sick in the hospital can make anyone blue…

Yours – only yours!

Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*March 27, 1949 [Sunday]*

*Dearest Darling:*

*This Sunday is a nice springtime day, but yesterday it rained again. It seems we’re having one spring day, then one rainy day for a whole week now.*

*I was in the hospital again Friday to see Fr. Ed. He was feeling pretty good and I got to stay till 8:30 PM. Phyllis and the Swantek sisters went to see Fr. Ed Friday after school. John Kamp came to see Fr. when I was there also, he brought Fr. his radio and mail. Fr. was going to stay till Monday or Tuesday at the hospital. Fr. O’Boyle said mass at Saint Mary’s today. Darling, I asked Fr. Ed if he was going to Chicago for a visit after Easter [April 17] and Fr. said he didn’t think he would now that he’s been in the hospital and didn’t know how he would feel for a while.*

*So, I don’t know what to say. Other years at this time we would be working in the fields, but so far it’s been too wet to start, spring work is going to be late. So maybe honey you had better come by train. I’ll pay for your ticket and you can bring just your most important things now.*

*I hope that you’ll be able to come before Easter so that we can be together and then we’ll have plenty of time to plan after that for our wedding, hm?*

*Gee, I wish I could be a little mouse to get a preview of my beautiful bride-to-be. Did you find your bridesmaid yet? I was thinking that Rich thought of driving a car out in May, that he could bring a few of your things, hm?*

*I’ve been napping and listening to the radio today after doing my chores and now I feel good enough to write. I had a sweet and pretty card from you Saturday telling me the wonderful news.*

*Sis has been playing in the house with two little puppies which are about a month old and they’re kinda cute.*

*You asked what I’m doing for excitement, well not very much being it’s Lent, I guess. I’m saving my fun and good times till we’re together again for keeps. The roads are very bad now and more rain isn’t helping any…*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

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*[really nice blue embossed stationery]*

*Osceola, Nebr.*

*March 29, 1949*

*Dearest Darling:*

*Darling, please don’t worry about Fr. Ed, he isn’t really very sick, he has carbuncles on the back of his neck. [carbuncles are a “cluster of boils,” a bacterial infection] Fr. was to see Dr. Eklund and the Dr. told him it would be best if he would go to the hospital for a while. Fr. Ed told me he thought his teeth kinda poisoned his system. So, he is getting penicillin shots and lots of rest is necessary also for Fr. Ed.*

*I went up to see Fr. Ed last nite, but he wasn’t in. Sis told me Fr. Ed went home for some things, but that Fr. was coming back to the hospital for another shot, so I didn’t get to see Fr. Ed. One of the sisters was wondering if I was from Saint Mary’s as I went to see Fr. Ed for the third time. In short, it was just my respect for Fr. Ed. Then I told the sister about “us” and she was real happy for us.*

*I promise I’ll call if Fr. Ed shuld happen to get worse, but as of now Fr. just needs a good rest.*

*It’s been cloudy here today and tonite its raining lightly again. It’s rained here about six times in the last week, but the total amount of rainfall hasn’t been over an inch. It seems like we just get a shower when it rains.*

*I was listening to the news at 10 o’clock and the commentator said it rained in Lima, Peru S. A. for the first time in five years, for two hours, which is hard to believe after a person can see it rain here so easily.*

*Today I went to town (Osceola) after I got my work done, I haven’t started working in the fields yet because it showers every other day.*

*Gee, I’m sure glad you didn’t get those high heeled shoes you wrote about because I’d probably have to stand on my toes to kiss your sweet lips, although the efforts would prove justified.*

*I’ve been listening to WGN the last few evenings, I’ll bet anything darling you couldn’t tell me who was playing at the Aragon without looking in the paper. Chuck Foster, a pretty good orchestra, wish I were with you, I’d love to be with you tonite. A wonderful dream though.*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

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1305 hrs, 55 minutes, 30 seconds (11:05 PM)

2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Ill

March 30, 1949

Dearest darling of mine –

Have two letters of yours to answer tonite but it’s because you told me not to stay up writing when it was past time for dreaming! I hope your feelings weren’t hurt Monday night when I just wrote to Sis and not to my sweetheart. You see, I was all enthused about their material [to make the dresses] and gloves and things I got for the wedding and I wanted them to share it with me. They’ve been patiently waiting a long time for some sort of news.

How are you my own darling? I hope you are real happy about the nearness of O.W.D. I get real thrilled when I think of it and now with the shopping and everything going on why I get so excited that I can’t think straight. That’s it – it’s hard to believe to think straight and its with great effort that I do it. When I think of the short time before me and thing I must get, I get all nervous and upset. I want to get out to Nebraska for there’s a lot of work to do at the rectory.

I know Father is planning on my cleaning (spring cleaning) the house and yet when I get to Nebraska my earning capacity will be nil and maybe I’m being selfish wanting a lot of nice things but its because I want to be a bride you’ll be proud of and it’s hard to explain – but there are so many seemingly important things I want to have for my wardrobe.

I’d love to be with you darling – honest you aren’t going to think so when I tell you that I’m not planning on coming out till May 1st. The reason I’m setting a definite date is I’m not going to let myself be talked out of coming earlier or later. I hope you’re not going to be disappointed. You’ll be getting so busy that you won’t mind too much. Your field work is going to be so late in starting that I’ll be a nuisance if I come out much earlier. Please, sweetheart, write and say it’s okay and you’re not too disappointed – please? Pretty please?

I had my day off today and I can’t say I accomplished too much. I worked late last night and so I slept late this morning. This afternoon I got some boxes from the hospital and got out all my books etc. from the attic and repacked them and all the other books I have around here. Got a box to fit my phonograph also but haven’t packed it as yet. I also packed a box of summer clothes and real wintry clothes. I got sick and tired of packing – I hate doing it – I mean such a general job. I sorted out a lot of notes and threw them out. I threw out a mess of stuff and still I have a mess of junk around the place.

Tonight, I called up Esse. I was kidding her and told her I was packing my stuff and was leaving for Easter [Apr.17]. You should have heard her! She has no confidence in my keeping my sweet disposition with our Rev. brother. I don’t know, though – Fr. gets a little unreasonable about the kind of work he wants done, but I usually managed with only a few scenes. I’ll have you to squeeze my hand or take me in your arms if I get upset. Things aren’t normal and I’m not myself – but it seems that I can manage okay if you’ll be around. It’s times like this that I wish we had a real quiet wedding – no frills and fuss. But I know it will be a once in a lifetime occasion and I want it to be as lovely and beautiful as I can manage – just for you!

Darling, I’ve been real blue this evening – I miss you so much and wish so very much that I could let my heart rule instead of my head. If I did, I’d be flying right out – right into your arms! My sweetheart, I love you so!

Your lovin’ little girl

Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*March 31, 1949*

*Dearest Darling:*

*… How about sending me some nice weather darling? The sun just doesn’t want to shine any more, it rained lightly again yesterday and last nite it snowed a little.*

*Last nite Ray Schott, Allan and I went to Omaha to see an Ice Show. It was “Ice Capades” and it was very good and very pretty. Ray wanted to go as he had never seen an ice revue before, so we went with him, we left about four in the afternoon as the show was at 8 o’clock. It snowed all the way back home from Omaha.*

*Ray knew a good place to eat supper, so we had supper before the show, it was a place in east Omaha about two blocks from the Missouri River close to the railroad yards. The place from the outside didn’t appear to be very clean, but it was real nice inside. The name of the place was Comentos. We had a real nice meal there, we had northern catfish, homemade bread, French fried potatoes, spaghetti, they just served the meal as if one was eating at home. Their meals were about as reasonable prices as they are here.*

*Fr. Ed called tonite from the hospital, I guess Fr. decided to stay a few days longer at the hospital. Fr. Ed was wondering how the roads were to Saint Mary’s after the rain and snow we had yesterday and last nite. Fr. wants to say mass tomorrow as it’s the first Friday of the month. Fr. said he was feeling pretty good, but he feels the effects from the penicillin shots.*

*I guess Sis had a letter from you today but she wouldn’t tell me what my darling had to say, I think that’s kind of mean, don’t you?*

*Well, I’ve been listening to the radio for a while, Fred Waring has been playing sweet music for you. Did you enjoy it, darling?*

*Well darling effective at midnite, we both can tear off a page from the old calendar and you will be “all mine” in 54 short days. March really was like a lamb for the first two weeks, but the last two have really been like a lion, pretty mean, but now April showers for May flowers.*

*Darling, would you please send that guy his rubbers, the guy that is quite forgetful at times, I promise him I would ask you to send them and in return this guy is loving you now and forever for the favor. Sweetest of dreams and good nite,*

*Faithfully yours,*

*Glenn*

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*April 3, 1949*

*Dearest Darling:*

*I got a little blue darling from your last letter, saying that you didn’t plan on coming before Easter, but now after thinking it over, honey, I can make myself feel happier.*

*I suppose and I know I would be inconsidered and selfish if I didn’t give in. I know it will be pretty lonesome for me darling not having you near, but I guess I really can brighten things by eagerly looking forward for our wedding and future together, so I want to be considerate, even though it hurts a little.*

*Well, to change happily to the spring day we had to day, it was a special Nebraska spring day.*

*This afternoon, the folks and I went over to Granddad’s for a while, it was birthday, his 76th. We played cards for a while and then had supper, cafeteria style.*

*Fr. Ed got to go home Friday morning. He stopped in and wanted me to go home with him as the roads were kind of muddy in places. So, I took Fr. home and helped get the house reheated again. Then after dinner at home, Fr. and I went to Columbus. Fr. Ed had to cash a check in Columbus and get some groceries. I helped him shop and you [should have seen] Fr.’s cart when it was full, sort of a buying spree I guess. Phyllis and Theresa were cleaning up a little while we were in Columbus. In the evening Fr. Ed insisted that we stay for supper so we did. Fr. Ed had devotions at seven-thirty, and after devotions Theresa fixed Fr. Ed a roast and Rita and Fr. were writing a letter or typing I guess a letter to the Bishop’s office. I had a job also to keep me quiet, you know me. I brought all the candle holders from the altar into the house and cleaned the melted wax out of them and then put new candles and tips on them. I suppose I’ll have to put new ones in again before our wedding as they’ll probably be pretty short by then, hm?*

*Fr. Ed is feeling pretty good now darling, Fr. Ed was really happy when we drove up to his house. He could see the change to spring around the house as the grass was getting green and he’d be able to work outside around the place, rake leaves, etc.*

*Gee darling, I almost forgot to tell you about the time Fr. Ed and I had in the music store in Columbus. Phyllis wanted the record, “Cruising Down the River” and Fr. Ed had a few polkas ordered, so we went to the music store. We got a bunch of records and went into the booth to listen to them. I bought “Cruising Down the River” by Blue Barron, they also had the “Blue Skirt Waltz”, so I bought it for Fr. Ed and told him that it was our second favorite waltz, right? (If you want to hear it, got to come to Nebraska).*

*My new tractor finally came in Saturday so I’m ready for the spring work, when it clears up. We are two weeks behind schedule of last year and I do hope I can get started soon as I have a lot of farming to do before May 24th, please don’t feel sorry for me because I have you to think about, it’ll ease the tension a lot.*

*Well, I must rise tomorrow at seven,*

*Always – just yours*

*Glenn*

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49 days, 1175 hours + 45 minutes 26 days and I’ll be in your area!

2517 Prairie Ave

Chicago 16, 1949

Dearest Darling,

I have had a hectic weekend and haven’t counted days or hours for a few days and now I am real thrilled – at the nearness of it all! Precious, it won’t be long now, not long at all!

So Small Fry didn’t tell you what was in the letter she got from me. Well, she wasn’t mean – it was I who was mean. I made her promise not to show you that particular letter since I did some free hand drawing in it! Ok – you know what? I’m happy to know she kept her promise.

Saturday evening, I went to Cil’s house for supper and we fooled around, came back at 10:00 PM and was all set to wash my hair when I had a call from the hospital asking if would please ‘special’ that night since patient was dying and needed a nurse badly. It was a hard decision – I worked all day and was out all evening but I loved it. The patient didn’t die – in fact she showed some improvement by morning. She gave me a real hard time. I haven’t worked that hard on a private case yet. Sunday, I slept till 1:30 in the afternoon and then went on duty @ 3:30 – 11:30. Today I worked 10:30 -7 so I had a chance to catch up on lost sleep a little. (Went to an AM mass on Sunday – right after I got off duty. Was it ever hard to stay awake!)

Tomorrow I think the weather man is crossing us up – keeping you from working in the fields for so long. It’ll be my honey and not me who’ll take the one day off to get married and not me! I think I’ll say some prayers so you will get some of this beautiful sunshine weather we are having out here!

I bought 5 new records Saturday – “My Love to Keep Me Warm” – “Powder Your Face With Sunshine” – “Sweet Georgia Brown” – “Magic” – “One Sunday Afternoon” – “Let a Smile Be Your Umbrella” – Brush Those Tears From Your Eyes” – “A Little Bird” – can’t think of the last ones. They were on sale and I got them for 29 cents a record. Have a nice collection of them now. Course “Night in May” is top favorite and makes me feel a little closer to my precious.

Loving you always,

Del X X X

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*April 6, 1949*

*Dearest Darling:*

*Well darling, I guess old man winter has finally given in, I started working in the field Monday. I cut stalks Monday and disked yesterday and today in preparation for planting oats. I have this one field read to plant and have three smaller fields to plant next week.*

*I guess darling it was the prayers you said that brought us lots of nice sunshine weather, so I could start working in the field, it really feels good to work in the fields after such a long winter..*

*My new tractor really works nice in the field, it really feels like old times operating a John Deere again. Allan has been using it yesterday and today. The tractor isn’t limber enough yet for real heavy pulling, so I was using Allan’s tractor today for disking.*

*I met Fr. Ed Tuesday evening on the road as I was coming home from work. Fr. Ed was in Osceola, Fr. also said he was having 13-hours devotion in Saint Joe’s this week.*

*Sis, she has been standing in front of mirror for half an hour fixing her hair and then she said she was going to write Del.*

*I was only teasing about the letter you wrote to Sis. I don’t let her read mine – so all is fair in Love & War.*

*It really is hard to believe Easter is just around the corner and that Sunday is Palm Sunday and then Mary and my precious darling.*

*Well I must close for now, good nite and sweet dreams, your guy is getting on the sleepy and tired side, it’s been quite a while since I’ve been both, about time, hm? Well any way this month will breeze by a little faster that way.*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

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Memo to the one I love:

1088 jour or 65,280 minutes or 45 days ~ 24 more days and I’ll be in your arms, 575 more hours, 34,500 minutes

2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Ill

April 7, 1949

Dearest Darling,

If I have to come to Nebraska to listen to the “Blue Skirt Waltz” I’ll never get there because I just splurged and bought it for myself yesterday! The other side has “Forever and Ever” – both are cute songs! Yesterday I really went on a shopping spree. I got my check and believe it or not, its all spent. Can you keep a secret? Won’t tell Phyllis? Well, okay, precious I got each of my bridesmaids a beautiful single strand of pearls. They are very lovely – very dainty. I also got my precious – oops – this is far enough. I think you’d like the gifts I got for my girls. I also got myself some baggage to get me to Nebraska. Can’t borrow Esse’s anymore since she’ll be using it herself. It’s navy blue with pigskin trim. Looks real sharp.

Your letter was real newsy today – I enjoyed it a lot. Of course, I’m glad your consenting against your will to let me stay a few more weeks. I wonder what the ‘Padre’ will think about it? The two of you act as if it were a great vacation for me out here and I want very much to stay here. I don’t know if your letter or the one I got from Theresa made me blue and very irritable today, but I didn’t have a very happy day. Theresa wrote that Fr. was expecting me by Palm Sunday – three days away!!! I guess I shouldn’t even write when I feel like I do, but gosh, it’s going to be hard on me, working Easter Sunday. I know okay I’m blue. I blame it on the letter – naturally you’re going to be lonesome and blue and I feel badly because I’m causing you to feel blue. Your letter only reminded me that I’m making you feel thus. I’m just all mixed up – I only know I’m happy when I’m with you and its plain misery away from you. I keep fooling myself that thus and such is fun when I know its not really when you’re not with me.

I reread your letter tonight again, and its as nice as it could be. I’m glad you’re having nice spring weather out there finally. Maybe you can break Johnny Deere in really soon. I’m glad he finally came in.

So, you are the official candle cleaner-upper – I remember doing the same job years ago. I’ll let you refill them for O.W.D. so they can glow brightly and take up our prayers and blessing for happiness right up to Our Lord.

I am your little queen tonight. The dentist put a gold crown on my tooth today. I had a long wait too! Then I came in about 10 PM and instead of coming to the “tomb” or morgue, (my lovely little cell!) I went up to see one of the girls. They had just started to do some spiritual reading and wanted to know if I wanted to stay for it. We listened to one of the girls read all four gospels on the Passion and Resurrection. It was very comforting and nice. We have not done anything quite like this for a long time. Your little girl lost some of her blues and felt much better believe me.

I hope that guy you wrote about got his rubbers! I had them packed for a week but just didn’t get around to getting to the post office. However, I talked one of the girls into taking the package while going to the loop shopping Monday evening, so you should have them by now. I’m sorry I forgot about mailing them sooner. Hope your feet didn’t get wet because of them!

Goodnight – its 2 AM now, so must close.

With all my love,

Del

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[green ink on notepad paper]

2517 Prairie Ave

Chicago 16, Ill

April 9, 1949

10:30 PM

…Hi! Honey thank you for the lovely birthday gifts! [b-day is April 8] The raincoat is really beautiful – I love the color and style a whole lot. My sweetest doesn’t want his sugar to melt away. I won’t either and the billfold is a real beauty. Just think of how handy – with powder and lipstick! Did you pick out the rain coat or did Mom? Hm? If you did, you have real nice taste. It’s as light as a feather and yet I bet it will keep me snug as a bug in the April showers – in fact, any showers. The birthday card was really very beautiful – and the verse – very fitting. I did have a happy birthday [Del was 28] You helped make it so!

Mary and Cil were going to help me celebrate. We were going to have supper at the apartment where Mary lives (with another girl). They picked me up from school and I got off duty and went with them. Your little girl is very naïve honey – never suspecting anything was in the air. As it turns out, it was a bridal shower with about a dozen girls there. I feel very much like a bride dearest! You see the things I received were all very lovely to make me specially pretty for you! It was a personal shower and I received four white slips, one half-slip, a darling shortie night gown (blue) and a gorgeous nylon nightie plus a couple of bras. Everything is lacy and beautiful – wait till you see – oh honey – just wait – only 44 more short days!! I was so surprised about it all. This whole week end has been just full of happiness!

I even had a letter from you on my birthday. You are so precious and sweet and lovable. Do you like “Forever and Ever?” It’s fast becoming one of my favorite songs. Some nice guy is singing it over the radio – let’s seal it with a kiss, shall we? [big lipstick kiss]

Guess what? I heard from my long-lost bridesmaid. Edna called tonight. She was in Chicago for a few minutes between trains and wouldn’t say much but I think she’s married. She has been traveling since before Xmas – from what she would tell me, she has been having a wonderful time down in the sunny south & was at present on her way to California. She sounded very happy and promised to write soon. Guess I shall have to forget about her as my bridesmaid. I’m real happy to have heard from her just to know she is happy. I don’t know what it was all about, but she couldn’t tell me if she was married or not. Can’t fool me though – I know what she sounds like when she is happy and she sounded divinely happy. (Almost as happy as I sound when I talk about you and our wedding).

They’re playing – “You’d Be So Easy to Love.” If I were singing it to you, honey I’d have to change it to “You are so easy to love!”

I have so much to write about tonight – I can’t seem to end this letter. I must tell you something else that made my heart skip a few extra beats. The card from Mom with “Happy Birthday Daughter Dear.” It made me feel as if I’ve acquired a very precious possession – a mother! It’s something I’ve wanted ever since I lost mine and now you’ve given yours to share with you! Will you say thank you and give her a kiss from me for adding to my birthday joys? And such a pretty dainty hanky!

I have so much to look forward to that I feel I can’t be blue ever again…

Just that girl that loves you with all her heart!

Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*April 10, 1949*

*Dearest Darling,*

*I’m sorry that my last letter made you feel so blue, cause I was writing from my heart’s feeling and being a little selfish on my part, please forgive me because I love you so dearly.*

*Here is the good news, our dear Fr. Ed said he was taking a whole week’s vacation, starting April 24th and was driving to Chicago for a week’s stay and would bring you back. Fr. Ed wanted me to write and tell you that he plans on coming; he said he was asking the Most Reverend Bishop for a week’s rest.*

*Allan and I went over to Fr. Ed’s place this afternoon, we put two new light bulbs in the spotlight above the altar. The Swantek girls and Cliff, Rose and Clara were doing some painting on the side altars and some finishing work on the main altar. Cliff gave our Blessed Lady’s garment a pretty blue finish.*

*I pitched in a little by painting the inside of the tabernacle on the west small altar and also did some puttying on the small altar. Fr. Ed also had an election after mass for hall committee.*

*Fr. Ed has a funeral tomorrow at Saint Joe’s for a Topil boy who was 16-years-old. Fr. Ed said he was a ‘blue baby’ when he was born.*

*Today being Palm Sunday, I went to mass in Osceola at 8:30 and today it was cloudy with a very light April shower. Yesterday we had about half an inch of rain which will stop field work for a while, so I went to Osceola in the afternoon to do some of my business. I have about half of my oat planting done now and hope to finish this week.*

*Fr. Ed had the crucifix above the tabernacle on the main altar refinished in gold and wanted to know if you and I would pay for it, in our memory as we will make our home around Saint Mary’s for a while. So, I told Fr. Ed I would pay for it ($15) and Fr. Ed said no, that we both should, as we are still single and working and would I write to you about it? So, is it alright, with your consent, that I give the money for both of us?*

*So, you have the “Blue Skirt Waltz” to listen to. I heard it played today by an orchestra from Omaha, and heard another “Bow” orchestra that has the “Night in May” for their theme song. I have an orchestra on the radio, not our radio though. I have our radio upstairs by my bed to put me to sleep at night, so I can dream of you. The orchestra that is playing is Tommy Ryan and they’re playing, “I Wish I Had Somebody Who Cared Enough to Cry Over Me.” Well, I really have somebody sweet that cares for me, but I never, never want her to cry and get those beautiful blue eyes of hers, red, no never.*

*I received my rubbers last week, thanks a million times darling for sending them and don’t forget to collect a big kiss for my thoughtlessness.*

*Well, good nite and my dreams are yours. Sweet dreams*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

*P.S. Please excuse my stationery lately darling, I ran out and have been using Small Fry’s and now it’s nearly gone. [a nice blue textured linen] I guess I have to go shopping for another box of stationery for a few more letters.*

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*April 13, 1949*

*Dearest Darling:*

*I had planned on writing last nite darling, but Theresa called and wanted me to come over to Fr. Ed’s and help finish painting the side altars, the second coat. Phil also was helping paint. The altar’s I think look real pretty now after being repainted. Sis also went and helped paint, first time.*

*I just got back a little while ago from Osceola. Folks and I went to confession and it’s been raining a little this evening, I think it will be just a light April shower. It’s been a spring day today, I finished planting oats and sweet corn yesterday and today I took down a temporary fence I had around my cornfield and burned some old hay on the hay meadow. I feel a little tired after working today, must be that your guy is a little soft yet.*

*It makes me happy to hear you say you had a happy birthday and that you like the rain coat. I did pick it out myself hoping that you would like it. It is always a problem for me to pick out anything, I guess it’s because there are so many things to select from and when it comes for me to select something for my you, it’s doubly hard to decide.*

*Darling, those bridesmaids of yours keep pestering me with, “Who do you think I’ll stand up with on May 24th?” So, I tell them that I’m going to wait and let you help me pair them together.*

*We have a new car in the family again, Allan traded his Plymouth on a new Ford, it’s a two-door and is sky blue, hope it stays new so we can use it on O.W.D., hm?*

*Well, I must close just for now, I want to go to eight o’clock mass in the morning. Fr. Ed has mass on Easter Sunday at six o’clock, I think I’ll go to Saint Mary’s Easter. Somehow, I know I’ll be close to you Easter…*

*Forever and ever yours,*

*Glenn*

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2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Ill

April 12, 1949

10:40 PM

[letter is written on dark yellow “progress notes” from Mercy hospital and tucked into an Easter card and written in pencil]

Name: soon to be changed. Bed: none. Date: with my handsome darling via the mail.

My Dearest One,

Your letter full of happiness and joy arrived today. It even had a lot of good news in it. I know I can’t possibly love you more than I do, but yet I feel that I do. Must be that I appreciate all your qualities just a little more each day.

I should have been spanked for telling you your letter made me blue. Instead you wrote such a sweet letter in return.

Naturally, it was wonderful news to hear that Fr. is coming out for a week. It also solves many problems for me. The time is getting really short when I think of all the things that must be done yet. Today I got my sample copies of our wedding invitations. I hope you will like my taste. They will be ready in a few weeks – by the time I’m ready to leave.

Of course, you have my consent for the donation for the gold plating of the crucifix. Anything given to the church is usually returned in another source. I have found it so. But I think Fr. meant that I should contribute toward it also. Since you are so anxious to do so and since you’ve asked me so sweetly I just have to say yes and not quibble about it. You made me very happy by wanting to do it.

Soon the night nurse will be coming on duty so I shall quit for a while. I have to come on duty at 8 tomorrow morning. I also work 8-4:30 Thursday. Good Friday morning I have a dentist appointment for the whole morning and work 3-7 that evening. Saturday is my day off and Sunday, Easter Sunday, I work 7:30-4. Well, here she is!

[a different handwriting] – Hello – Take care of Del – (Pat - the night nurse)

April 13

I had good intentions precious to get this letter off last night but got side tracked somewhere along the line. Tonight, I’ve been busy making phone calls – very necessary ones – to the printer, my sister, etc., and washing my hair and sending my packages to Phyllis and Mrs. Mostek. Will you tell Small Fry I didn’t send out one pair of gloves because we have to have a pair made small enough for little Del and need a copy. It’s very late indeed – oh yes, tell Phyllis I sent the material to Mrs. Mostek; so, she can go see her soon, as the lady will start sewing right after Easter.

Lovingly yours,

Del

P.S. What’s this business of yours in Osceola??

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*April 16, 1969*

*Dearest Darling:*

*… It’s been kind of hard to write being its Holy Week, but now that it’s over and Easter is tomorrow, time will really fly.*

*For a while darling it looked like we would have a white Easter instead of a green one. It snowed about four- or five-inches Thursday, but most of it melted the next day. It sure seems like old man winter can’t realize its spring yet. The trees are beginning to get big green buds on now and things seem to be getting green slowly.*

*I went to communion on Holy Thursday and Friday we had mass at 12:15 PM. In the afternoon I went to Osceola to get an application notarized for refund gas for my tractor and also get the Chevy serviced.*

*Today or this morning I took my tractor to Silver Creek to get it fixed. I suppose my darling wonders if I’m reckless with it or if it’s a poor tractor hm? Before the tractor was shipped from the factory, they put too much transmission grease in it and when we used it, the grease was forced out of the rear wheel axel retainer, thereby ruining it, so the Company has to fix it for “us.” This afternoon my landlord came over and we planted about fifty elm trees.*

*We invited Fr. Ed for Easter dinner, but the Kontor’s wanted him to have Easter dinner with them as they were planning a family reunion, but Fr. Ed said he would come for supper, though.*

*I hope that you have a very nice Easter, I bet my darling will look very pretty in her new Easter bonnet. X X X*

*I’ve been listening to the Hit Parade the evening, “Cruising Down the River” was number one and “Forever and Ever” was number six. I think its very pretty and a very sincere tune in my heart, with all the meanings of it going to you, from me.*

*I plan on going to six AM mass tomorrow at Saint Mary’s. I might go to Duncan in the evening to a dance, but I’ll be thinking of you constantly and just passing time till you’re back in my arms forever and ever.*

*Sis said Theresa and Rita wanted her to come over to their place for dinner tomorrow, as they’ll be home alone, I think Sis said the Martha M also would be with them (a staggette party.*

*Well darling I better be hitting the hay if I want to rise at 5:15, so a very good nite and sweetest of dreams to you.*

*Forever and ever yours*

*Glenn*

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*April 18, 1949*

*Dearest Darling:*

*I want to thank you darling for the pretty tie you sent me, I really like it very much. My darling has a very good taste for picking things I like. I guess I’ll wear the beautiful tie on our W.D., hm OK?*

*It was really wonderful to hear your voice again, after so long, it seems.*

*Easter day seemed to be a very long day for me, so I figured if I call my precious darling telling her I loved her so very much that I’d feel a lot happier inside and it did just that darling. So, my darling had a white Easter, hm?*

*Nebraska was blessed with a sunny, green Easter and today was another typical spring day.*

*Fr. Ed and Martin came over last nite for a while. Fr. Ed and Martin couldn’t come for supper, so Mother saved them some fried chicken. Remember darling when I wrote and told you about getting baby chicks, well we had spring fried chicken from them for dinner! Some of the chicks were started chicks and were a month old when we got them and now they weigh between 2 & 3 pounds. They really tasted good, sure wished you could have shared it with us.*

*Alois S came over last nite and we went to a dance in Duncan, Fr. George had a real nice crowd.*

*Today I was getting ready to have my cattle tested by a D.V.M. I had to move a chute over to my place from home to hold them. About May 1st, I can turn the cattle out in the pasture for the summer and my chore of feeding them hay will be through!*

*It just seems that every nice day I can work isn’t long enough to catch up on things to do after a long winter and the wet weather we’ve been having, but I know John [Deere] and I will make it by May 24th, that a promise.*

*Well thanks again with all my heart for the very pretty Easter gift and the two pretty and cute Easter cards…*

*Always yours*

*Glenn*

*P.S. Thanks for a very sweet understanding letter today, honey.*

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[Letter on a Michael Reese Hospital blank clinical record sheet lined]

[2929 S. Ellis Ave, Chicago, Ill., south and not far from Mercy Hospital]

210 hours & I will be in your arms! 871- hours to O.W.D. Data for “the Boy”

2 AM

[Monday morning, April 18, 1949)

Dear Sweetheart,

The roses arrived on my lunch period and brightened my day considerably. Last night I was a little blue at the thought of spending Easter away from you. Today, though it snowed a bit and rained, was a happy day – you made it so!

My new stationery – how do you like it? I’m doing private duty – night duty, that is tonight. I will no doubt be doing it tomorrow night too. Don’t know what I’ll work on the floor during the day. The patient I’m ‘specialing’ is a friend of a friend of Sister Michael’s. She is my supervisor on the floor that I’m working on. She said she’d fix my hours; I don’t suppose I’ll work very much at all tomorrow, since she wants me to stay on this case nights for a few days. The man I’m taking care of is a very bad heart case who’s son-in-law is a doctor. He’s a very good patient and really cooperative. He dozes off frequently and has to be watched carefully. He is in an oxygen tent so I have a gay time zipping down the little opening to give him his ice or H2O. He does a lot of groaning in his sleep so I’m not too sleepy – keeps me awake and alert.

I had a letter from my girlfriend in England, who is expecting a baby on May 6th. I wrote to her and told her that we were getting married. May is going to be a happy month for a lot of people, right?

This is a different hospital I’m working in tonight and everything is rather strange. They are very nice here though – the staff, I mean. The nurse was sweet about showing me around the place. The room is a bit strange for there is no crucifix or holy pictures in it. This is a Jewish hospital that I’m in and my patient is also Jewish.

I forgot to tell you something real important that had kept me busy the last few days. Our wedding invitations. Saturday, I got the proofs for approval. It reads as follows:

**Your presence is requested at the marriage of**

**Miss Delphine Jaworowski**

**To**

**Mr. Glenn Kresha**

**On Tuesday, 24th of May, 1949**

**At**

**Saint Mary’s Church**

**Pilzno – Osceola**

**Nebraska**

**Wedding Dance at**

**Saint Mary’s Parrish Hall.**

On the reception card I have the following information:

**Reception from two to five o’clock**

**Saint Mary’s Parrish Hall**

“Miss Del”

[written around the edges of the paper]: That’s what my patient calls me!

[letter on Mercy Hospital letterhead and mailed with above letter.]

2537 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Ill

1 AM Tuesday morning

(April 19, 1949)

Dearest Darling –

If I stay on nights long enough – you’ll be hearing from me more frequently, that is, if I get out to get some stamps. I got caught short – no stamps – no stationery and no time to go out for some. It wasn’t too bad today. I slept until noon and got up for an hour to check my mail (wasn’t any) and to jabber with the kids during their lunch period. They all come up to have a cigarette in my room and freshen up a bit. Back to sleep until about four. On duty at four-thirty tonight. Then I went to talk to a friend of mine for a while. Then it was time to get ready for duty and here I am!

My roses are very beautiful today! They are opening up and looking very, very precious. Yes, they are a messenger of the loved one in Nebraska and the beautiful love he has given me, which I cherish dearly.

[in pencil] My pen is running out of ink and I had better save what’s in it to do my charting with.

Well, sweetheart – you have seen what sort of day I had – rather dull. I didn’t even have time for dreaming. Course I have lots of time at present to think about you and the more I think about you, the more I find in you to love. You are so very precious and thoughtful. I know you will stay that way forever!

Must tell you how I get down here each night. I have a way, believe me, for novel transportation! Remember last summer on the coach? Well, this isn’t quite so bad. I got a ride in a police car. First of all, I asked for a police escort to the street car and if the car is around, I get a ride there. It’s only four blocks away from Mercy. Sunday, a chauffer picked me up – I was going to work 3-11. However, after I got here, the hospital here had gotten a nurse for the case, so they asked if I’d work the night shift – so here I am!

My patient is much better tonight and is sleeping a lot, so there isn’t too much for me to do and is hard to stay awake. Think I’ll consider further the wonderful pleasure it would be to just sleep on your strong shoulder!! Hm – can’t think of a more pleasant thing to do – except maybe to steal a kiss on your forehead or dimple when you’re not looking!

Your lovely dress should be ready for me this week but I don’t know when I’ll go down to get it. I don’t think I’ll be on longer than another night if the patient continues to improve. I have so many things planned to do toward the end of the week – including a dentist appointment that I probably won’t know what’s coming off. I wanted to go to Maywood to Lee’s to show her the wedding dress but I can’t do that until I get it and right now I can’t plan exactly when I can get it.

I also have my suit to buy and a spring coat either this week or next week and a few other incidentals like a hat, etc. Can’t get the hat until I get the suit and can’t get that till after pay day on Wednesday. I have been looking around for a suit but I can’t seem to find the color I’m looking for.

How are you doing these days, my precious? Working hard? How has the weather been there? We have had cold, damp weather today. In fact, we haven’t had a nice day since Holy Wednesday. I rained and pretended to snow the rest of Holy Week, as it did Easter.

Must write to Mrs. Mostek tonight. I mailed out the material and patterns to her – finally. Had it wrapped since last Wednesday evening and today I decided to call the Railway Express. Just couldn’t make it to the post office. Also, I must write to Father Ed and tell him how happy I am that he’s coming out! I also owe the twins and your little Sis a letter. Do you think I’ll ever catch up?

It is only 2 AM and my patient has slept fairly well so far. I haven’t had to do too much for him. If I just sit, I’ll fall asleep as am writing to stay awake & also to keep an eye on him in this manner. Before writing, I was sitting for a while & prayed a whole rosary for him. I wonder what he’d think of that? He’s Jewish, you know. However, I don’t want him to have another heart attack and I think prayer is just as important as medicine. I always say a little prayer before I draw any blood from my patients or have to put a needle in their veins. I usually get into the vein real well too.

I keep changing the subject back and forth in this letter but you will excuse it, I know, since you know it’s a little harder to think in the middle of the night.

Lovingly yours – forever and always

Del [really deep red lipstick kiss]

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[Letter started on back of Michael Reese Daily Condition Report sheet and finished on the front!]

O.W.D. – Days: 32 + 21 hours, 789 hours. D.D.B.I.Y.A (D-Day Back In Your Arms) 9 days and 21 hours.

2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Ill

April 20, 1949

3 AM – Wednesday morning

Dearest “Precious,”

Hi darling! How are you this nice balmy night? Asleep in your nice snug bed I hope. You’re going to think you are marrying a night hawk if these night letters keep up. I had a horrible dream yesterday. I dreamt you were sick. Guess what? I flew in to take care of you! Please take good care of yourself and stay well for me – will you? Good thing I don’t believe in dreams. Must be my subconscious toying to find an excuse for me to be near you. Honey this is one of my longest weeks I’ve spent. Seems like when the time draws nearer, it also drags on. Everything is going to be so wonderful once I’m back again! I can hardly wait.

I received your letter today that you wrote Saturday. Your letter and Small Fry’s both came today. One was air mail and the other plain. However, yours probably came in the morning mail. I slept from 8 AM till 3 PM, so I didn’t get my mail until then.

I decided to do something definite with the money I earn on this case. I’m going to pay the rest of my dentist bill with it. Then I won’t feel so badly about working. I still bless the little nun on the floor. I could never do this if I had to work a full shift on the floor. And guess what – she’s going to let me have a day off this week – Saturday! I should sleep the whole day through, but I have so much to do that I can’t possibly do that! I’d like to devote next week to getting my packing done and visiting with Father Ed. One of the girls I work with has been wanting me to come to her house for supper some night after work for the longest time and now she’s getting insistent, so next Monday night I’m going there. I figure Fr. Ed will be too tired from his trip to visit so that will be as good a night as I can think of. I can’t make any plans for this week because I don’t know how long I’ll last on this case. Sister keeps teasing me and wanting to know if I can take it yet. Oh sure! I’m fine – just a little sleepy. I get as much sleep this way – really I do – if not more than I usually get so don’t you go feeling sorry for me.

Looking back at my letter I hope you can read the writing. I hope you won’t need a magnifying glass to read it. Have been busy tonight – my patient is not having too restful a night. Did have a chance to say my rosary though, so that is something.

You seem to be constantly on my mind darling. You’re all I can think of when I’m alone with my thoughts. Did Father Ed get the altars finished for Easter? I bet they look lovely, especially where my honey painted.

Now I know who’s going to do the odd paint jobs around the house – or rather, who’s going to help! It will be such fun doing things together. Are you going to let me help push the tractor around with you? I’ll be a great back seat driver. I’ll keep an eye on the rows so you get them nice and straight! Oh, what fun. I can see me getting my sun tan a pleasant way this summer. And think of all the Vitamin D I’ll get from the sunshine. I’m looking forward to being outdoors again. I get so tired of being cooped up in these hospital buildings!

‘Nuff dreaming for now – I think I’ll sign of for a while. It’s four o’clock and time for me to take my patient’s temperature again – every four hours, you know!

Glad you like the song “Forever and Ever” – it’s pretty wonderful – words and all. Gee honey it won’t be long any more. No more counting the days – it won’t be necessary. I’ll have found my happiness forever!

Your sleepy eyed little girl

Del X X X [red lipstick kiss]

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2517 Prairie Avenue

Chicago 16, Ill

April 21, 1949

3:10 AM, Thursday Morning

My dearest sweetheart,

Got your letter tonight and your Easter card in the noon mail. I don’t know why your card traveled all over the city. Anyway, it was a beautiful card (X X X).

To your letter – I am so glad you liked the tie I picked out for you. It’s the very first tie I ever bought and chose, so I’m happy that you like it. I’m tickled that you would consider wearing it on such a big occasion as O.W.D. but it would look a little strange with a tuxedo – or aren’t you going to make me happy and wear one? I can’t imagine six different color of suits on the best men and groom – especially since all the bridesmaids are wearing the same color and style of dress. Then too, I want to see you in a tuxedo. Didn’t you know they made handsome men look handsomer? Please honey? I’ll be real disappointed if you don’t. Honest. You can wear your Easter tie with your “going away suit.” I have my going away suit to buy yet. I hope I can find the color I want in it. You might know that I’d have a hard time.

Fried chicken for Easter? Why I thought you just got those little chicks a few weeks ago. My, do I envy you eating those tender spring fries! Better quit talking about food or I shall be hungry!

I figured it out – I have one more full week to work. My last day will be next Thursday. [April 28, 1949] I shall have Friday and Saturday as my days off. I didn’t take my half day this week (big joke – I have only been working half days on the floor since I went on the case). Tonight is definitely going to be my last night on. I can’t take it anymore. Too sleepy or something. No, Sister will really need me on all day Friday so I guess I can’t work Thursday night and go on duty Friday at 8 AM. I’m not superman. Nope, I’m just a lil’ girl who gets mighty sleepy when she doesn’t get enough sleep.

Just think, exactly a month from Friday we will be married. Just a month!! And think further – just a week from Sunday and I’ll be home again – with you!! Oh, I just can’t wait and yet I’m sure the time will pass all too swiftly. I only hope I get my business settled before I leave.

I’ve been writing thank you notes tonight to the girls for my shower. This was the top piece of stationery and it’s a little soiled, please excuse. How do you like the blue? It reminded me of the blue for our wedding so I bought it. Won’t have to be writing too many more letters to my you, cause – just cause!! Makes me real happy!

Love

Del

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*April 21, 1949*

*Dearest Darling:*

*Sis and I went over to Fr. Ed’s last night. Most of the CYO members were there and everybody was painting or doing something else. Fr. wanted the side altars finished for Sunday.*

*We had about three April showers today and I got slightly wet in one of them as I was in the field when it came. Allan was helping me today. We were cleaning out the coral. I bought a hydraulic scoop for the John Deere and it really works nice.*

*Saint Vincent’s Church are presenting the Boys Town Choir Sunday [Apr] 24th at the school auditorium. Fr. Ed, Martin and I plan on going together. Fr. Ed was real sweet, Fr. Ed bought tickets for us.*

*Saint Andrew’s Church is to be dedicated Monday, April 25th. I guess the parish will have the Boys Town Choir sing the high mass. I think the bishop is coming to dedicate the new church.*

*My darling is really keeping herself busy nowadays.*

*My girl asked me if I was getting excited and nervous ready, well, I trying very hard not to be.*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

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*Osceola, Nebr.*

*April 25, 1949*

*Dearest Darling:*

*I’ve been very busy the past few days and it seems the following day there is just that much more, but I love my work and feel good when I work. Time seems to fly so much faster that way.*

*Gee darling, our W.D. is just a month away. Are you as happy as I am?*

*Well darling you’ll probably see Fr. Ed and Phil before you get my letter as they left last nite. It was really swell of Phil to accompany Fr. Ed.*

*I was over to Fr. Ed’s Sunday, we finished some painting on the side altars and then cleaned the basement and garage “lightly.”*

*Martin Kaczor and I went to hear the Boys Town Choir last nite and then we went to a dance in Duncan. It was a fireman’s dance and the Eddie Vlasek Orchestra from Omaha played.*

*The folks had company last nite for supper and more fried chicken, hm.*

*Will I have my precious darling frying some for “us” real soon? Surely, I hope.*

*It’s going to be a very long week waiting for my you to come back, but I’ll say my prayers real good that you have a real safe trip back along with Fr. and Phil.*

*I know darling that our Lord will answer our prayer and always will take care of us.*

*So, my darling wants to take my job away from me, driving the John Deere, hm? Well, we can take turns, can’t we?*

*I planted some spuds Saturday for “us” darling and plan on planting a lot of other vegetables this week. What does my darling like, so I know what to plant, hm?*

*This morning the D.V.M. came back and branded two cows for me, that had reacted to a blood test, then we immuned the rest of the herd.*

*Well darling good nite & sweetest of dreams and show Fr. & Phil, especially Phil, a good time.*

*Always yours,*

*Glenn*

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Del’s last “letter” prior to getting married, May 24, 1949:

