

July 29, 1943

AUG 31 REC'D

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L-283 p1r

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Dear William:

Your letter of July 9th just arrived and I am devastated to hear that you have received no letters from us for such a long period of time. Laurence mailed several letters for me but since school is out time flies & the date is never too clearly before me - we are well & very happy, in fact, increasingly happy. As you can imagine busy as well. There is so much to do at the store, insufficient help, & endless reports and changes in wares - or rather, no wares.

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The shelves are very empty and no replacements. Laurence is going to try to keep the doors open but it will be a great struggle. However, if the store ever closes it will not open again. He is only one of many.

I had intended to get a job at Owen Corning this summer but somehow my energy does not seem to revive with its accustomed quickness so I am resting to be able to attack the work next Sept. It is a source of pride to me not to be a burden & expense to your father - It is bad enough for him to have Melody here but she will soon be gone - He is busy at Denison Summer Session & has learned to adjust to the

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environment. However, that environment has also adjusted to quite a different standard of real attainment. Denison is no longer the superficial glorified High School it was in recent years - The army, navy & marines have taken over & if civilians want an education they can conform to requirements. They anticipate a definite decrease in enrollment at High School this year due to so many boys & girls having jobs & earning excellent money. One Sophomore in my homeroom last year was earning more out of school hours, Saturday & Sunday than I was working full time. I shall hang on to my job just as long as I can. We spend as much time as we can at the farm & have a very

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prolific garden, much of the produce is in the cellar or our locker. We could not find a boy to help us this year so we have worked rather industriously. It is, however, too much for your father to work all day & then continue till it is dark at 9:30 or 10:00 o'clock at night. - The garden work is something that keeps me down - I never have done any such thing in my whole life & it is a bit devastating physically for me - maybe it is just old age but let me blame it on the garden. (L-283 22)

Melody has had a sad experience in losing her father. He died July 2 very suddenly and Mel has pulled herself together very bravely. But she was very close to her father & naturally anticipated seeing him again for he was such

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a dynamic personality - so vital that one did not feel he could snap out like a light bulb. Since leaving the Chicago Civic Opera Co. he had sung these past 5 years leading roles as a permanent member of the San Francisco Opera Co. His wife is a very lovely person & a fine ^{portraits} artist. The American Magazine offered her a permanent place on its staff which meant residence in New York & she may accept that - though they are an old established San Francisco family. Her mother's family founded Culver Military Academy - & her uncle is still in control. I am deeply grateful to Marjorie for she has been so understanding & lovely to Melody. (L-283 p 3r)
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time of suffering can ride out & get about the house with help. She has two nurses of course. Aunt Rob has not been well the last few days but I hope it is not serious - nothing but the too warm weather & the terrific humidity (85°) Lillian wrote me not long ago & they seem well - as well as one can expect for Aunt Vonnie looked like a slight wind would blow her away when they were here last - but she is surely courageous -

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They intend to have the Grand American this year, much to our surprise - but only 3 days instead of the usual week. Naturally, the shooters must supply their own shells. It seems these shells are not a type that

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can be converted to the war effort. And speaking of war effort, unfortunately, it is suffering from over optimism - (but having been referred to as a slave driver I may be too demanding) - Let us pray that it may have an early end & a satisfactory one. (L-283 p 4r)

Dr Turner has purchased the Fleek home next door to his present residence, the Swisher house - two imposing homes for one man. He married Juliet Upson & her 3 children at long last & it seems the Swisher house is not big enough for Jule, her family, & Mrs Turner, the doctor's mother. Jule & family will live in the Fleek house & I suppose the doctor will sneak back & forth through the sunken garden between

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the two houses. But, after all, no house was ever big enough to hold two women who thought they were the rightful "boss". And Juliet is right to demand her home. Life is too short for petty bickering. As a wise man once said if a couple wants to be happily married they should live a 1000 miles from any of his or her relatives! (L-283 p4)

Your letter indicates that Philinda is well again and we trust in good spirits & health. She must be very bored with the recital of small town events in these letters but we are anticipating with keen pleasure the day when we can show her our village plus its inhabitants and may it not be to far away. We all join in love to you both and may your trip to Jos be one never to be forgotten. Sarah
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