

November 20, 1940

Dear William:

Just a line on the eve of this Thanksgiving day tomorrow, for of the two days designated by our President, Ohio is celebrating the first. Your papa who leaves for the wilds of Arkansas on Monday for his pleasure jaunt to torment the feathered population of Arkansas will have two dinners as they are not celebrating there until November 28. More power to him! We are going to have turkey and all the trimmings with pumpkin pie for a finish. We wish you were here and I bet you wish on that same star. The Bauman family are coming to dinner which we will have about 4 in the afternoon in order to give the HUNTERS time to give vent to their enthusiasm and come home to a good meal, with the result that they will probably fall asleep just to prove they can. Anyhow I am anticipati[ng] it with a great deal of pleasure and know that I will not be disappointed.

We enjoyed our dance very much, even papa. The crowd is quite varied, a combination of various groups and they get together with a truly wonderful spirit. The dinner was good, nothing more, they dance two square dances and then two round dances which affords variety. There is nothing tame about square dancing; it surely stirs up your circulation. You ought to see your father! But he had a really good time. We went out with the Merrill Montgomerys and they more or less took us under their wing if that is necessary. I never saw anyone enjoy anything more than Merrill did those square dances. Those not inclined to dance used to play bridge (I think pa secretly hoped for an easy chair at a bridge table) but they all became such ardent "YOKEL" dance enthusiasts that everyone dances now. Anyhow, it is good for both of us. The next violent exercise is Dec. 28.

Your Grandpa is coming to Bettie's for Christmas if he is able. After all he is really quite remarkable for his age. Mary is not getting along any too well with her ankle that she broke, she is at work again and all that sort of thing but the thing bothers her more than it should.. Otherwise I think that the family is in excellent condition. Let us hope that you are in just as good shape, the cold all well and the unpleasant effects of the serum all worn off and you quite your own self again.

At present our public square is all festive with Christmas green lights and all the usual splendor designed to make the innocent shoppers feel the thrill of the Season and part with their ducats. As you note my typing is not what it might be, but I feel a definite need for practice. It seems to be hard for me to anticipate the end of the line and prepare for it properly, also, it is not easy to type and spell all with one process, but if you can read this the necessary has been accomplished. Like anything else it demands practice, which I do not seem to find time to do.

As we wrote you, on Saturday we are going to Columbus to see the OHIO STATE - MICHIGAN football game. It is a big event, homecoming, queen, attendants, and a sold out stadium. We have our seats in the Michigan section! That ought to be good. Afterward we are going to the Conklins for supper, but I think that I told you that.

Somehow things seem to be very quiet here and I don't want to bore you with mere trivialities. Your father went hunting the first day of the season and never saw a fowl nor cotton-tail. Was he disgusted! It was a miserable day and he had not intended to go, but Louis Mitchell had a couple of guests to go on the farm at Hanover and as neither he nor Mr. Ned could go, he prevailed on

Laurence to act as host, which he was naturally very glad to do. I hope that he will go for a few hours tomorrow and see if he cannot have better luck. He ought to go anyhow to see our new 'Ferdinand' – a prize creature and just adorable – only 7 months old and I imagine a few more months will relieve him of any superlatives. This is a Bull I am talking about. You can see which adjective is most appropriate when you get home.

Some of the business men of the town have organized what is known as the Executives Club which meets for dinner (evening) once a month and they are inviting the wives for a change. The first speaker is to be Will Durant on Dec. 5. They expect to present outstanding speakers and it really seems to be a very good idea.

The apples are about cleared out and while the crop was very small as well as inferior in quality it seemed to require a considerable amount of work. I wonder if it was worth it. They are drilling a well about a mile from your farm and after that expresses itself we will know which way the wind blows or rather which way the oil and gas flows. You don't suppose there might be a HOPE.

We look forward to hearing from you and sincerely hope your furnace is on and the chicken and choice bits hold out for awhile. We shall be thinking about you and trying not to worry.

Love

Sarah

Love and Kisses from Papa. (I added the kisses)

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COBY

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DAVE MITCHELL