

Jan. 22nd 1941. 7. 30 A. M.
Rec'd. Feb. 16

Dear William:

We have been so busy with our invoicing that I just have not had the time to write to you. So often when I might write the machine is in use and unless I come back at night, I am out of luck. This morning I got down at a little after seven, so will get a start before the store opens. Our invoicing is going slow as usual, it is so hard to accomplish very much when you have to stop and wait on the customers. I imagine that we will break about even with last year on our sales or possibly a little better. Can't tell much about profit until after the inventory is finished and books closed.

It was mighty nice to receive your letter mailed in New York and we were glad to know a little about how you are getting along. The Christmas card was very nice but it was a shame that they had to make an error on "season". Your trip to Rome, mentioned in your letter of December 2nd, must have been very interesting. Speaking of Italy, I bought a gallon of imported olive oil yesterday for \$5.00 and they say that they do not know how much longer they will be able to get it. Used to pay \$3.00 per gallon for it.

I am trying to write and at the same time listen to the broadcast from Europe. According to the radio this morning the British have taken Tobruk¹. According to all reports they seem to be doing very well in Africa, as are the Greeks in Albania.

There has not been much of importance happened around home. Mr. Sam Van Voorhis died last week at the age of almost one hundred, there is quite an epidemic of flu in the country but nothing as serious as the last time. Several of the county schools are closed and Sarah got in a couple of days teaching at the High School on that account.

I have often wondered how you got along with your Italian lessons, presume you have mastered it by this time. It is hard to realize that a year has almost passed since you left home. How are your supplies holding out. Reports say food is almost all rationed in your part of the country. Hope that your radio is working well as it is your best source of news. Baker has a new NC200 National² and he says it is just fine and he can get the short wave from almost any part of the world.

I almost envy your being able to stay in at nights and read, I would like very much to do that very thing, but it seems as though it is so hard to get an evening that I do not have something to do. I have had a cold for the past month but it is better since the weather has gotten cooler. However, it is warmer this morning and weather man reports rain. We have had a very mild winter so far, no zero temperatures as yet and I hope that it does not get that cold. Sarah has had a little cold the last few days but I do not think it will be serious. Betty has been very well, taking exams this week, in fact she finished hers yesterday and is free the balance of the week. We have another bird dog puppy, sister of the one that we lost, John gave her to us and I believe she will make a good dog. The Taylor's always ask about you when they write, we would like to go down to see them for a week or so this winter but doubt if we can make it.

¹ "Tobruk or Tubruk /tə'brʊk/ (Arabic: طبرق ...) is a port city on Libya's eastern Mediterranean coast, near the border with Egypt. ... Allied forces, mainly the Australian 6th Division, took Tobruk on 22 January 1941." (Wikipedia, "Tobruk", accessed 2013-09-15.)

² "Prewar general coverage receiver with separate ham bands." (Richard Post, <http://www.ohio.edu/people/posr/bapix/nc200.html>, accessed 2013-09-15)

Poor old Mrs. Schaub has had to give up and quit. She has been failing for quite a time and Christian Science could not seem to hold her up any longer. Her son's wife has been quite sick and that has been a worry to her. She has never written to her son Paul that she was not well, but she promised us that she would, she took a room over on Elmwood Ave., with one of her Science friends.

We have no help as yet and will try to get a girl to come in a couple of days and do the cleaning etc.

Grandpa went back to Michigan last week after quite a long visit with us, he seemed glad to get started back. Herman is laid up with what he calls the flu and Betty is about the same as usual. They started a gas well on the lot right next to Herman's and [he] got out an injunction against it. The case has not been settled and I rather doubt if he can keep them from drilling. The Hughes got a very nice well on their place and Riley Speck drilled one on the vacant lot just east of his house and got a dry hole. The Owen girls and Dick both have a nice well as have the "poor" Crawfords.

Did we tell you that Bob Hughes was called into service, he had been wanting to get in so much and had almost given up getting a call, but it finally came. He is at Fort Knox and is in the Commissary department and tells me that after the first of the month he will have charge of all of the food buying. Fort Knox is a place of a larger population than Newark.

We told you that Janie had a very fine visit when she was home, I gave her quite a number of articles to take back with her for the apartment and also gave her a letter to a firm we deal with to buy an electric oven. Do not think she has gotten it as yet as I have not received any invoice for it. She seems to like it very much. We had a nice letter from her this week and she seems to be getting along very well and likes it.

The apples are moving very slow, dollar is about all that they are bringing at this time. I am glad that I had no more in storage than I did. The reports show that there are more apples in storage at this time than there has been for many years. Government is starting to buy again and paying 90¢ for 2¼" up, ring packed and in new baskets. That does not leave much for the grower, as the storage is . 25¢ per basket for the season and baskets, lids, liner and pad run around 17¢ each.

The Miller girl, Franis is to be married on the 24th and will live in the down stairs of the house next to us. (7.15 A.M. Jan. 23rd), I did not get to finish the letter as I had hoped yesterday and rather glad than I did not for I saw John Montgomery yesterday and he told me that he had enlisted in the army. His number was soon to be called and he thought the sooner the better. He told me that he had expected to be married the first of March. I had heard about it before but did not know the date, he is apparently going to postpone the marriage until after he serves his time. He is going to marry the Fitch girl, I do not know her first name, but understand she is studying to be a doctor in college at Toronto, Canada. Mr. Klopp, the former music teacher died last week.

Weather is a little cooler this morning, 34 and colder weather is promised. I feel so much better when the weather is cold and hope it continues that way for a while.

I see the page is gone, write and tell us all the news that you can. Love and best wishes from all of us.

Yours, *Daddy*.

Jan.22nd 1941. 7.30 A.M.

Rec'd. Feb. 11

Dear William:

We have been so busy with our invoicing that I just have not had the time to write to you. So often when I might write the machine is in use and unless I come back at night, I am out of luck. This morning I got down at a little after seven, so will get a start before the store opens. Our invoicing is going slow as usual, it is so hard to accomplish very much when you have to stop and wait on the customers. I imagine that we will break about even with last year on our sales or possibly a little better. Can't tell much about profit until after the inventory is finished and books closed.

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