This pen is atrocious – Blow off the chicken pox scales when you read this!

October 11, 1940

Dear Willie:

Your letter reached us in which you comment that I have given up writing but such is not the case, and I do hope that my missives arrive in due time.

Everything here pursues the even tenor of its way – save for Betty distinguishing herself by contracting chicken-pox – of all things!

Naturally, the house is carded & it seems to be a source of mirth among our friends, but not for Betty. She surely has been ill and to her great regret is missing the apple "delirium" – the grapes were nothing remarkable and the apples are very inferior

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in quality as well as quantity.

Now – can I think of any news! Tonight we go to a dinner at the church to honor Sherman Baggs who is retiring from active duty in the Sunday School due to ill health. You can imagine what a thrilling evening we will have.

As you know conscription is here and the result will be interesting. As you can well imagine it is not popular but I quite agree with the sentiments you have expressed on the subject. I have never seen so many women walking around "anticipating" or whatever Winchell calls it now. They evidently hope to evade the issue (of draft) by this method, but it would seem the cure is worse than the issue at stake.

Isabelle Hatch has just withstood another serious operation at the Cleveland Clinic & Clark says she is at home feeling better than she has for a long time.

Did I write you that Anne Flory

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has successfully escorted Dr. Hendricks to the altar – She married a very nice man. The personality plus Kathryn who taught school is in New York working on her M.A. at Columbia.

Mollie Starrett was at home looking extremely pretty and quite poised. You probably know that she is engaged to a very fine young doctor whom she met in Philadelphia. It seems that the young man in question lives in Iowa.

Mrs. Shaub grows deafer all the time but she still talks about you and wishes you were at home to have some home cooking (fried potatoes, maybe) as turned out by the lady alone. The more impossible she grows, the more tenderhearted we become, but honestly she just can't anymore (if she ever could) – we have cleaned & scoured all the closets and drawers down to

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the kitchen, which requires time and elbow grease, and let us hope that next week sees order in the kitchen.!?!

There just doesn't seem to be any news that does not sound frightfully one track to me, but I hope to do better in the next installment. Mary Shinn has graduated from the underwear department at Carrolls and is now following her ambition to become a "technician" & is gaining practical experience as office assistant to Fleek Miller while Mary's place amid Carrolls filmy wisps of silk & chiffon has been taken by Bette Crum Dugan of the Rigg millions. I refrain from comment, with difficulty.

Now be good & write to us – we certainly wish that you were at home – but since that cannot be, here is lively & happiness. Make the most of it. Love from us all – Betty says she hasn't broken your record in N. H. S. – yet.

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