

1935 AEGIS *of* DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

H A N O V E R • N E W H A M P S H I R E

WALTER B. HOLMES, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • A. W. TACY, BUSINESS MANAGER

4/25/35

Dear Mother:-

Your fine letter arrived yesterday, and you can be sure that I was very glad to hear from you and find that you were getting along all right. It must be quite a relief to be home again, and I suppose by this time you have more or less efficient help around the house.

We had quite a bit of excitement early this morning, although I didn't get in on any of it. Just as I was going to bed last night about one I heard the fire alarm blow in, but thought nothing special of it. This morning I found that old Dartmouth Hall had been gutted by fire, and that they had been fighting it nearly all night. As you may remember, the outside of the building is brick, but the inside is all wood. It was built in its present form in about 1901 after the fire which destroyed the original building which was built in 1787. At present the outside of the building is hardly effected except up toward the roof, but the inside on the north side is very badly burnt. On the south side the damage is slight. Everything so far seems to indicate that the fire was deliberately set, and there are several indications that the fire bug attempted to fire the other buildings in the old row at the same time. A sophomore in Richardson, one of the nearby dorms, woke up about one thirty hearing some one in his room. He got up, went out, and saw some one slip out of the room. He had had a sack of oranges, and the sack and the paper covers of the oranges had been piled along with some other loose paper in the middle of his desk and set on fire. Of course he was able to put it out immediately.

The local volunteer fire squad seems to have been as ineffective as ever. When they arrived the fire was large, but not uncontrollable. It was localized in the basement, and at 2:30 they thought was about finished. They forgot to watch the insides of the walls, however, and it was not until the windows on the second floor began to glow that they realized that it had spread up between partitions. It soon reached the roof, and as a result, the roof is practically all gone, what with the fire and the firemen. They say a very large crowd gathered in spite of the early hour, and some of the students kept making wise cracks about the rather clumsy efforts of the fire fighters. The chief, who is, I think, supposed to be a professional, was on a ladder on the second floor, and he was so annoyed that he turned the hose on the crowd. Some one shouted, "This is no time to play. Put out the fire first". This is supposed to have settled the chief for some time. The students are never serious on occasions like this, and I suppose they were very annoying, but there was probably some justification in their criticisms.

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The damage is estimated at \$60,000, and I think this is very conservative, as the building will probably have to be entirely rebuilt inside. It's not a bad idea; although only thirty years old it was well worn and quite out of date. Reed Hall was reconstructed during my freshman year. It is still the same outside, but inside it is quite modern. I suppose the college carried heavy insurance on the old building, but the rates were probably high, as it was obviously a fire trap.

I saw Eddie Williams this morning, and he asked about you. His mother had written him, and he was glad you were reported to be doing well, although sorry that the operation had been necessary. Let me know your Commencement plans as soon as possible, as I will have to be getting after the rooms. Dick says he thinks the college sets aside a dormitory for the family of Seniors, and if such is the case you will be sure of having a place. I don't know how much the college charges, and of course it would probably be nicer to stay in a private home if ~~possible~~ possible.

I hope you won't let Daddy forget what I said in my last about money. Painful as the subject is, I feel as though I ought to remind you. The Senior tax this year is \$15. This covers a large number of activities, and it is supposed to be paid by May 10. House parties are coming too. I asked Pinky, but she says she can't come, so I guess I won't have anyone. This effects only a slight saving, as the \$4 house tax has to be paid whether I have a girl or not. I thought I might ask Frances Beggs, since she is now a "lady of leisure", to quote her own phrase, but I don't suppose she would come. However, her writing to me just before Carnival was a suspicious circumstance. The parties are May 3 and 4.

I am writing this from the Aegis office. The book is coming along pretty well now. The proof is coming in rapidly and it looks very good. Our printers say that they have never before received such cooperation from a year book staff. Whether this is true or not, we have been fairly good about getting work in nearly on time. The book will be ready by the middle of May, we have every reason to believe. Only 400 copies have been bought in advance, but we are rather confident of selling at least 700. It will be the best book put out here for some years.

Well, dear, I don't believe I have anything more to say. Take good care of yourself, and get good and well real soon. Let me hear frequently how you are getting along; make Janie write once in a while. Give my love to all the folks.

Williams



Janie Krieg