

The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee, Wis., Jan. 10, 1911.

Dear mother:—

I arrived in Milwaukee safely, and immediately took up the regular course of business. Everything as usual. Under the present management, business is better. Nothing in particular has happened, except a big fire, in the down-town district, which destroyed the six story building of Andree & Sons Co., (electrical supplies). I saw the building burn, from the roof of the Y.M.C.A. Later in the evening I watched the firemen climb ladders to the 4th. story to place hose in position, where the fire was still burning fiercely. Water was being turned on yet Sunday morning.

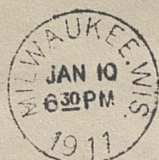
The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee,

Since returning here, this is my first letter. We are very
intensely busy. Have nothing to write anyhow, except that
I have had a bad cold, from which I am recovering.
I got a \$5 sweater. The same afternoon a flash-light
was taken of the office-counter and bulletin above. Ste-
gera stood at one end and I at the other end of the counter.
The picture, which was very good, I secured at \$35.
P. B. Willis calls us the "Immortals," but Fred, asst.
phys. director says, "Let the Gold-Dust Twins do your work,
more later."

Your loving son,
Ralph.

In 5 Days return to
Young Men's Christian Association
143 FOURTH STREET
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

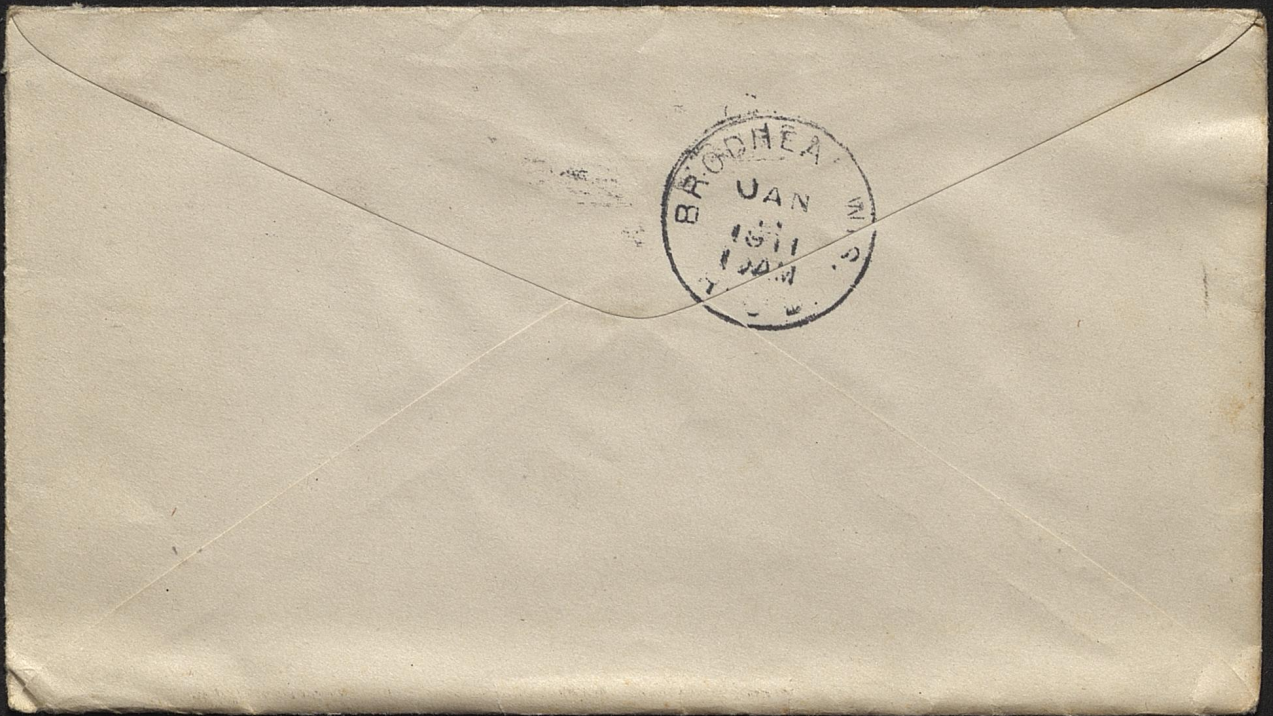


Mrs. J. S. Bowden,
Brodhead,

Wis.

Green Co.

U. S. A.



Wm. Y. M. C. A.
2/2/11.

Dear mother: -

I have tried frequently to write to you, but have to work hard. Am going to go into the gym soon. Will take a physical examination.

Received from Loyd a post-card picture of himself, with a few explanatory words. Shall prize it highly.

Forest Heath was here over Sunday to visit me. He intends to come to Milwaukee soon.

Have not written to or

Heard from Miles, William or
Sister lately. Suppose all is
well.

What is Ray doing now?
Heath said he was travel-
ing. Is Everett getting along
well?

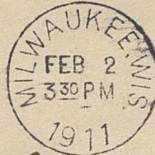
Last Sunday night I
went with the bunch to
North Milwaukee to hold
meeting there. My part was
the piano. Maybe the cold
strong wind, fresh air, and clear
sky did not seem like old
times! I appreciate it!

Sunday morning I attended
the Grand Av. ^{M.E.} service and. S.S.,
and taught¹ a class. Tough!

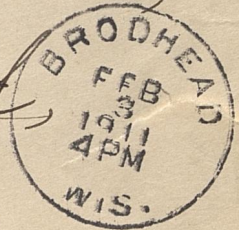
I shall try to write more after
this month.

Your loving son,
Ralph.

R. T. B. - 143 4th. St.,
Milwaukee, Wis.



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,
~~Brodhead,~~
Mifflin, Wis.



~~Green Co.~~

100

u.s.a.



Mil. Y. M. C. A.,
Feb. 10, 1911.

Dear Mother:-

Your card received O. K. - Suppose you will be home by this time. Rec'd a card from Grandma; also one from Sister. - I have been in the swimming-pool and gymnasium a great deal of late. It is the only assurance of my safety. Am feeling much better. The physical director had given me till early spring to "last". Will change his mind soon!

Was somewhat surprised to hear Ray had begun school again. Hope it agrees with him. Desire to get his address.

Have has practically no time

for writing; this is no fit. I have my hours as usual, but the need of eating and physical exercise and occasional study for the secretaries' weekly class has occupied my time almost fully. Will endeavor to get word to all in the near future.

The other night a boy whom I well know, a member of the Y. M. C. A., about 17 yrs old, and a morbid sissy of a kid, saying that he had no friends, drank of a bottle of what he thought was laudanum - that is, he claims he thought it was. At the time he stoutly insisted that it was laudanum. He has been morbid because of his father's death and on account of his tuberculosis. But they gave him a full dose of soap-water, and

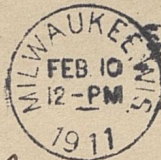
coffee with grains in it; then they took him to the hospital and, using a pump, filled and emptied his stomach with dope till any poison would be offset. Then the policeman called him down, and offered him the use of a revolver, saying it was a guaranteed shot; but this was refused. Finally he was landed in jail, where he is reserved unto court on Monday. He will lose a good job secured for him by the Y. M. C. A., and his membership will be cancelled. No bluffing allowed here!

How are Wm. and family and yourself and so forth?

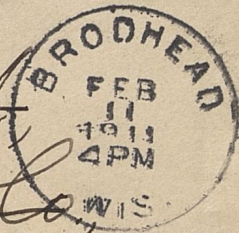
Your son,

Ralph J. Bondine.

y.m.c.a.,
ml.- 510.

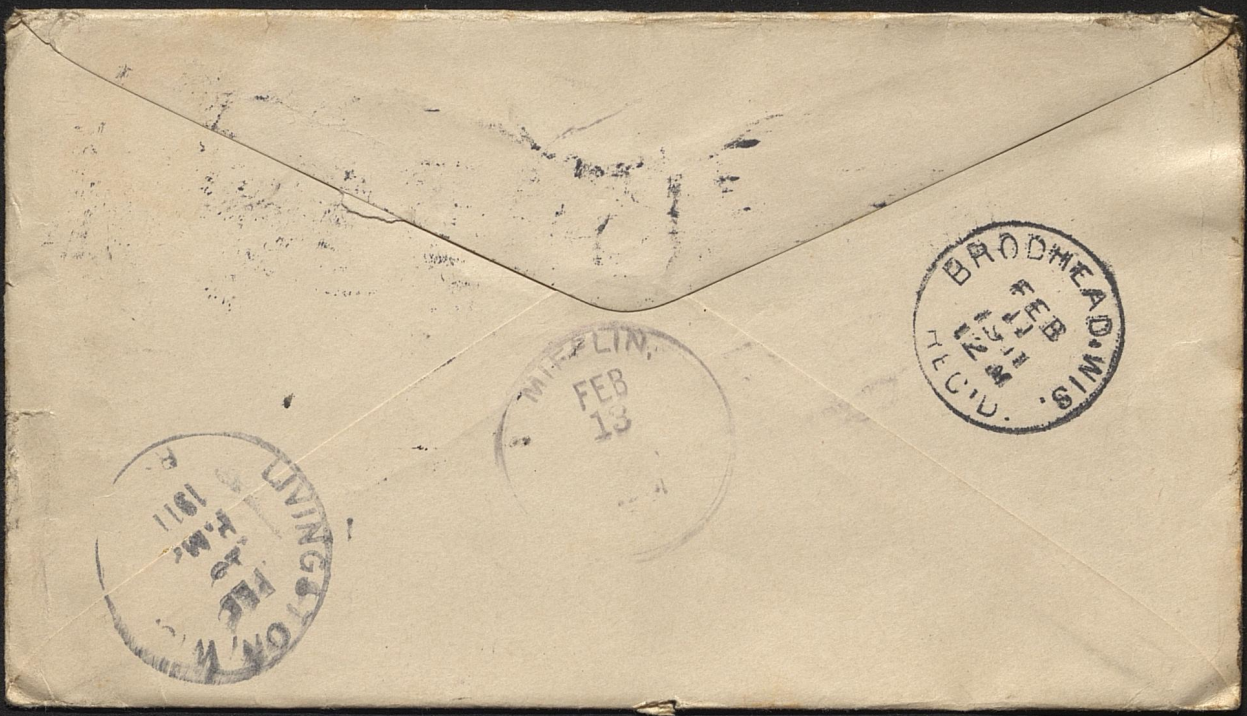


Mrs. J. S. Bowden,
Mifflin,
Brodhead,
Green Co.,
Wis.



Forward, if necessary.

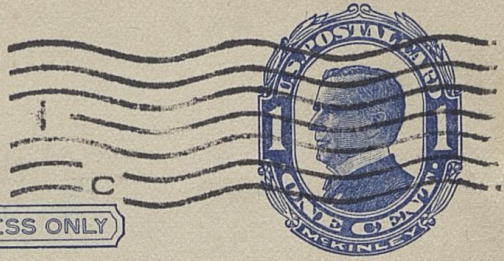
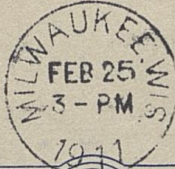
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Milwaukee Y.M.C.A.
2/25/11.

Dear mother: - Must apologize for not writing before. Rec'd a good letter from Sister which I have not answered. This is my first letter this week. - Do not worry about my health. I am putting on muscle and feeling fine. - How is the family? Hope all is and will be well. - Am still looking toward lively a. l. work. Cannot be content with any nominal position. - wish I could do more writing - communication. Am always busy. Have some office problems on my hands. The work is going in a business way.

Your loving son
Ralph.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS ONLY

Mrs. J. S. Bowden,
Mifflin,

Wis.

To W. S. Bowden

20

Mil. Y. M. C. A.,
March 1, 1911.

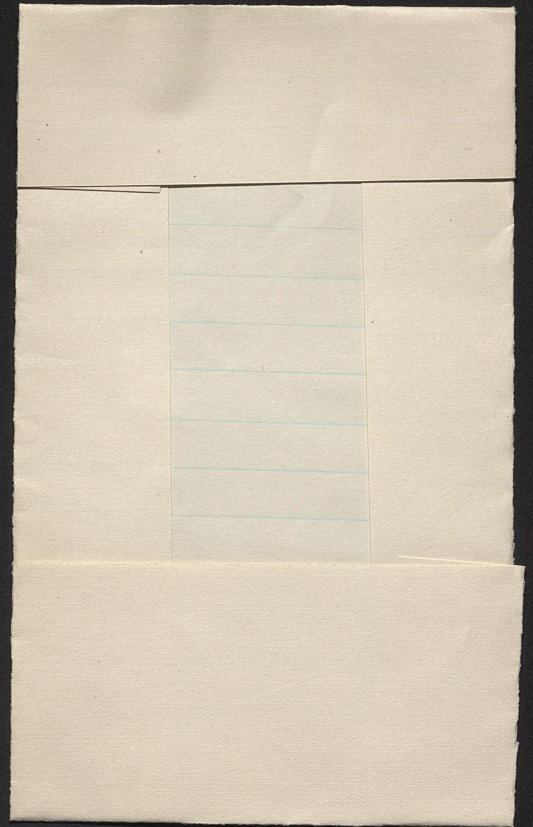
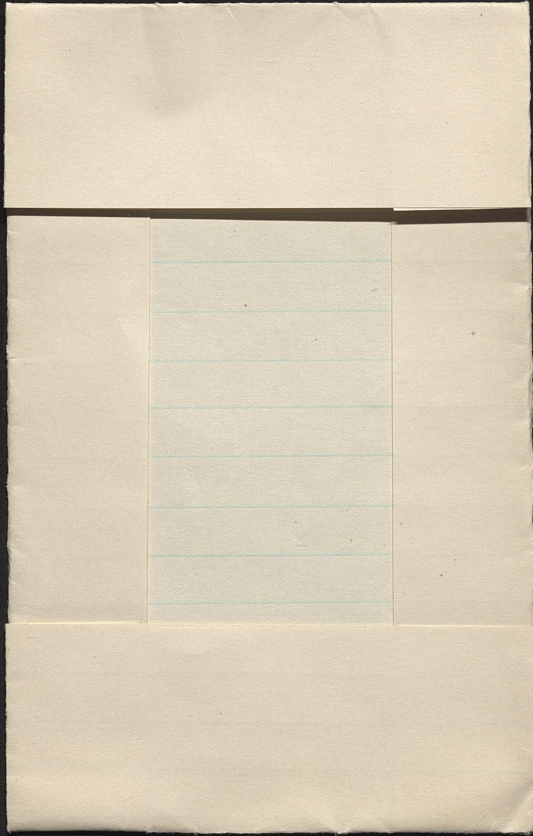
Dear Mother: - Have not heard from you since the card I wrote last week.

Aspinwall leaves here the middle of March. He goes to Montana the first of June.

Have heard little from anywhere. Get all the news but it has become common. My attention, outside of Sunday programs and personal exercise and study, is absorbed in the rushing business of the office.

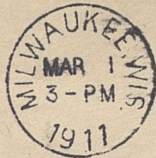
Hope to write more later. Must get back into the office.

Your son, (RFB)

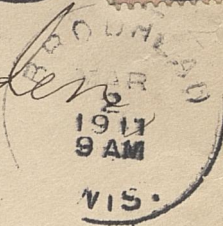


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RFB.
ml. y.m.c.a.

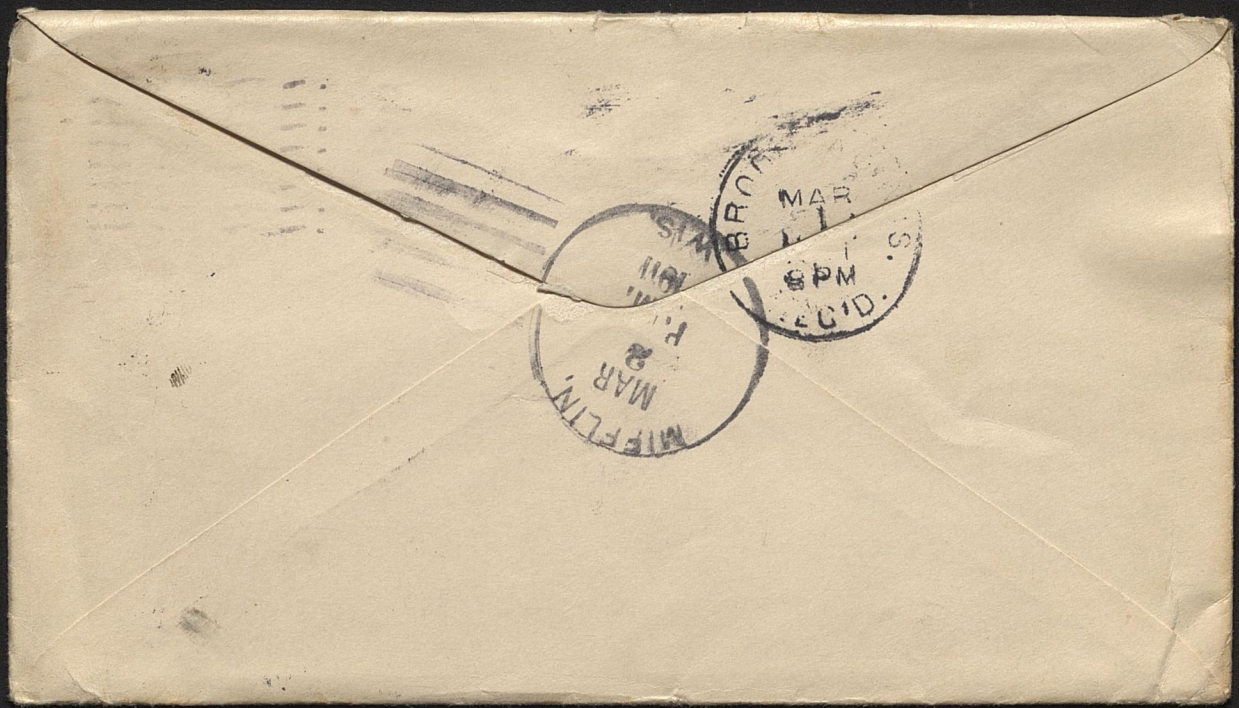


Mrs. J. S. Bowler
Mifflin
Brookhead,



Wis.

100



Wm. Y. M. C. A.,
March 13, 1911.

Dear Mother: -

Rec'd your card of last week during the busiest part of my life - the work of keeping records during a "Current Expense Campaign" for \$10,000. Was glad to hear. Hope William and family are well. Hope you keep well yourself. Sister seems to enjoy her work. Have not heard from Ray or Everett or Mills or Loyal or Grandma or Aunt Lucy lately - have not written myself! Am terribly busy! Aspinwall leaves here on the 15th; goes to Montana in

five. He will be succeeded
by a "Kid" whom neither I
nor my father think much of.

Have heard some great address
recently. Yesterday heard a re-
markable woman evangelist from
Australia, a Shun-worker.

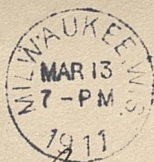
Are there any further devel-
opments about carpentering? Hope
to get there myself, but know not
my chances. The force cannot
well spare a number.

Enclosed find, etc.

Your loving son,
Ralph.

N.B. Note on the outside of this
envelope my official business seal!

POSTED
R.T.B.

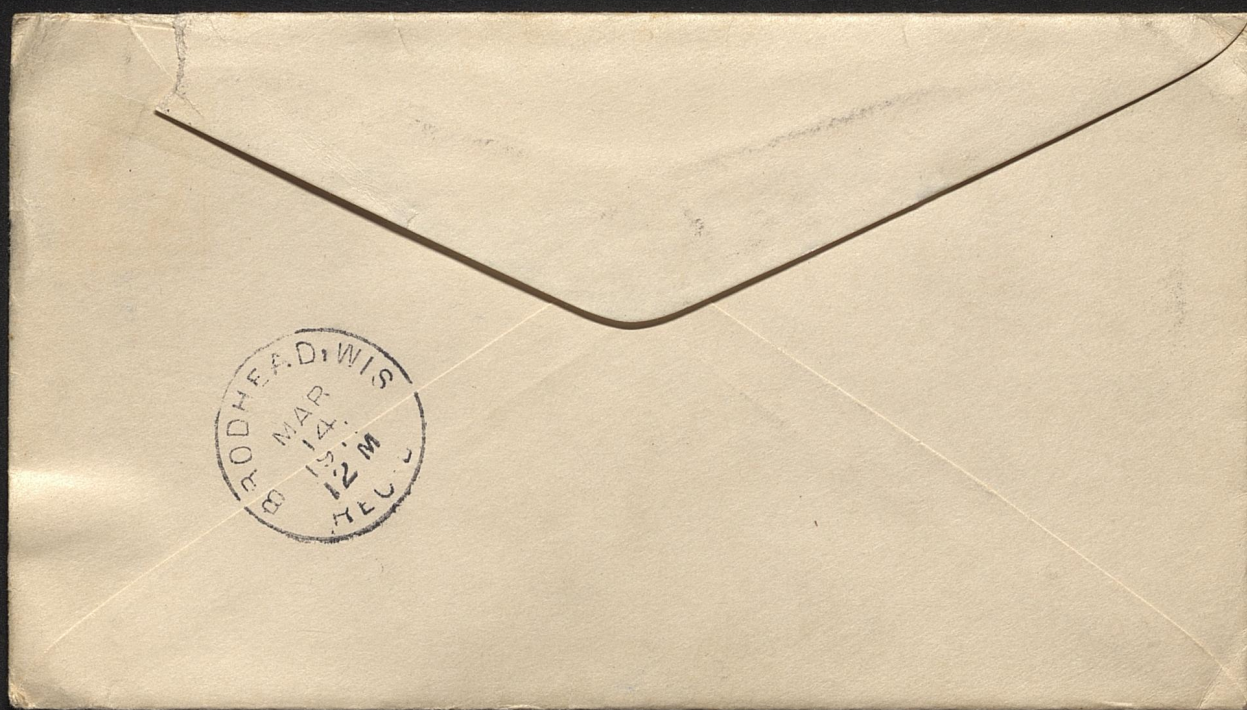


Mrs. J. S. Bowden,
Brookhead,
Green Co.,

Forward, if necessary

Wisc.

100



Wm. Y. M. C. A.,

MAR 23 1911

Dear Mother:—

Rec'd a letter (or rather, a card) from Sister the other day. Ray writes that he is at home.

Get or send little mail these days. Do not hear much except through a dozen daily newspapers. Milwaukee has had dozens of fires (and big ones too) within the past few weeks. This morning, in a \$1,500,000 fire, 19 firemen went down four stories when the roof unexpectedly fell, and were buried in a furnace of flame, coals and smoke. Eight are dead.

(4.00 P.M.) and the rest are terribly injured. I saw the entire front wall fall this morning, and a terrific stream of water helped it. The firemen are required to take the worst risks imaginable.

Wish I could become immediately occupied in Adventual work. The Y.M.C.A. is not religious enough in its activities.

Your loving son,

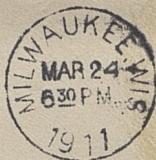
Ralph L.

In 5 Days return to

Young Men's Christian Association

143 FOURTH STREET

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,
Brodhead,
Green Co.,

Forward if necessary.

Wis.

100



Mil. Y. M. C. A.,
March 31, 1911.

Dear mother:-

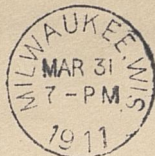
I have lately received a card and short letter from William. He mentioned his Nebraska trip. Have been wishing that I could find a good opening somewhere when my time runs out here - Sept. 1, 1911. Wm. suggests a college course, but I see no chance there at present. He counsels remaining with the Y. M. C. A. until better appears. In many respects it is agreeable and pleasant work - a fine building; gym, pool, and bath privileges free; good dormitory and restaurant accommodations. But, while my influence is as broad as the fullness

of the dormitory and extends to many
mentors and visitors, yet it does
not contain enough of the distinctive-
ly Christian spirit. Moreover,
my chances for study are very small;
this is the greatest trouble. I can
no more be satisfied to keep out
of Adventist work than I could to
always eat bread without butter
on it.

I received your last card a
little after I mailed you a letter
addressed to Brodhead containing
a \$10.00 draft.

Tell Ray that Karhisky was
in the building last night: we had
a great time Thurs. P.M. He says Ray
smokes!! — Your loving son,
Dalt.

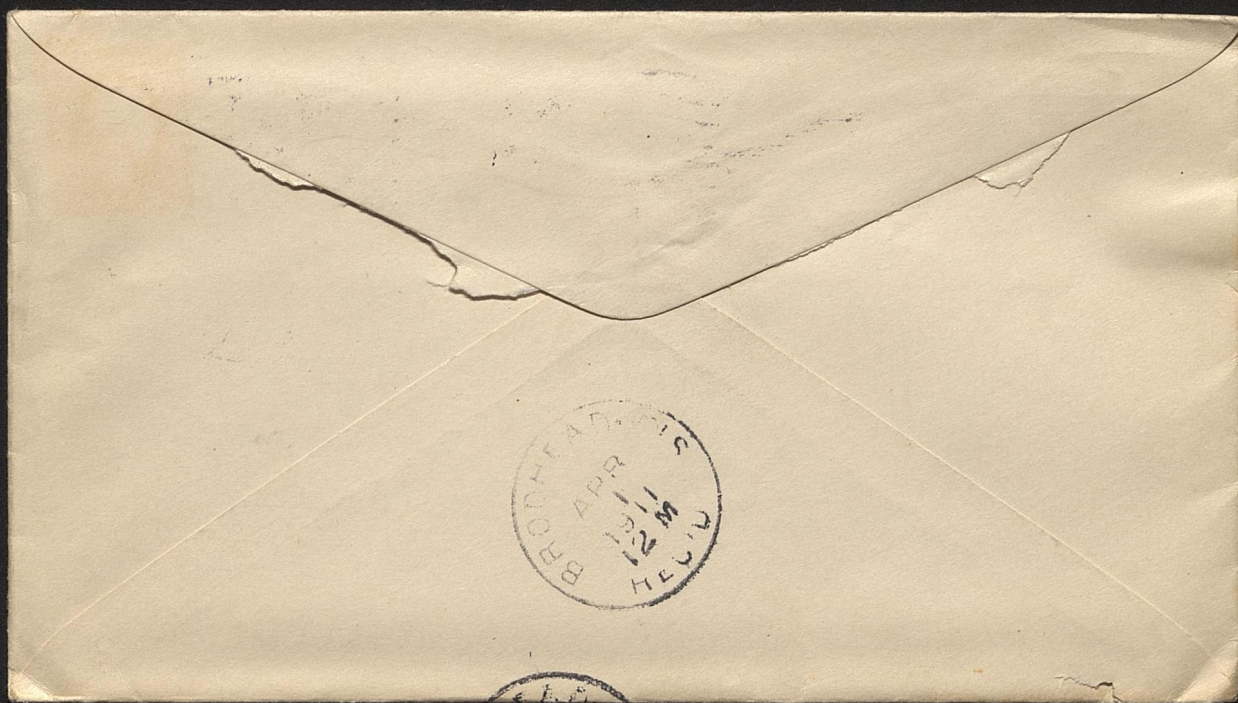
RTB- y. m. c. a. -
Milwaukee.



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,
Brodhead,
Green Co.,

His cousin.

100



Mil. Y. M. C. A.,
4-6-11.

Dear mother:- Your long letter received duly, together with all explanations. I think you and all of us are too much inclined to look steadfastly on the dark side of things. I can readily understand how Miles could get into such deep waters, and to solve the puzzle may not be easy - as to practical extraction. Especially would it weigh heavily upon a mother's mind to have such things occur. Personally I have always been inclined to look through the clouds to better things - thought not to air-castles.

You remember the state of things a year ago last August: funds low, Benlah's attempt to secure a Brooklyn school defeated, Miles not in the best condition, Wm. occupied with his affairs, and both Ray and myself without work. That looked dark! But also remember: I finally secured a school, though at low wages, Ray also secured a school, tho' at lower wages, and Sister went to school! There was no high living, but we lived thro' it all, even if there were difficulties. Also remember this summer. Ray lost his school, and failed to get another; Benlah secured a school after considerable

effort; I failed in salomanship(!),
but learned a pile; Miles had, as
usual, plenty of trouble, but got
along. Miles is not ^{an} idiot! When
I went to Jaxsville, he walked
all over town with me, looking for
work! That Jaxsville visit, tho'
unsuccessful, was the means, thro'
Forrest Heath, a genuine friend, of
bringing me to Milwaukee to a po-
sition of considerable responsibility
and influence, but which is not
a type of what I aim for. However
I am not either girl-crazy or fool-
ish ^{enough} to jump jobs without reason.
These things I say, not because I have
a soft snap, for I have not; but
because personal faith in the

word and goodness of God are necessary to please him. Neither do I forget that God is a Father, and not an autocrat. I don't believe in worry, and never can. I have a hard job myself. The introduction into the membership work of a "kiddish" lad of 19, who has no control of his tongue, and who is too foolish for any use, but who has a considerable favor with the bosses, so that he does not mind his business as he should, has caused us officers-secretaries, who have become very close friends, no little trouble. But Stegerga is too much inclined to silently ruminate over things which are irritating, and speak

of them only to me, who seems am,
apparently, his only Milwaukee
confidant. Stegera definitely intends
to leave. To-day he is exceedingly
sore over some criticisms which
appeared concerning the office. Nat-
urally, being in touch with
hundreds of different men, we some-
times come in for our share of
fault-finding. The Willis family is
too strongly entrenched here; they
want change in some other offices too
often. The excellency of the work
does not count; praise is lacking.
I know not how they regard me,
but I do ^{know} ~~not~~ where I am doing right.
A spirit of fearfulness will kill
any family or person. I am sorry

William thinks I am too easily dissatisfied. I am simply looking out for the future. Shall stay here as long as I can, or until better appears. Have gained a great experience here. Of course I want to get into Christian work, but the Lord must lead.

Hope that Nebraska matter will be settled right. Am waiting for more definite news.

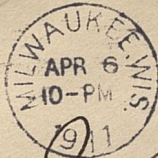
If Sister is home, tell her I have not forgotten her, nor Grandmother, nor Aunt Lu, nor Everett. Tell Ray not to be rash. Don't worry. It kills more men than work!

your loving son,
Ralph.

P.S. Draft enclosed.

(\$10.00)

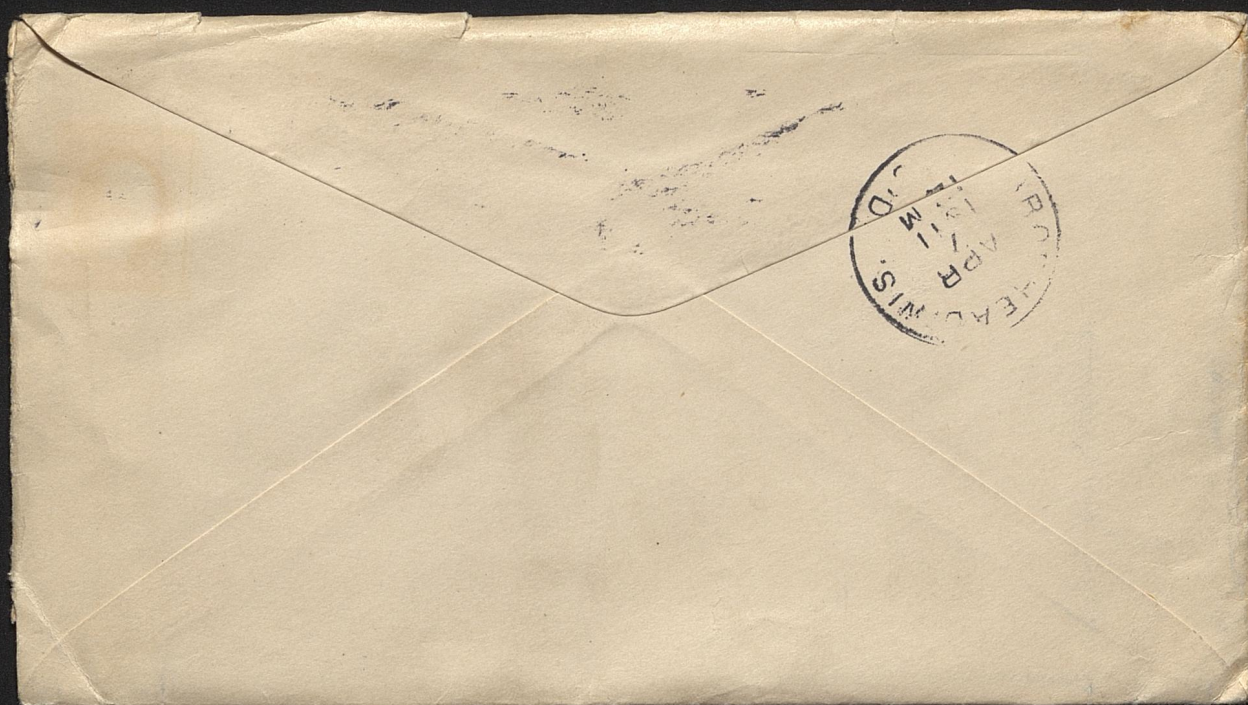
R.B. - mil.
y. m. c. a.



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,
Brodhead,
Green Co.,
Wisconsin.

Exhibit
Content -
profile & back of
fringe -

300



Natl. Y. M. C. A.-
April 13, 1911.

Dear Mother: -

Yours rec'd Mon. and sent
on to-day. Could not sooner.
Rec'd a letter from Bro. Arnold
today in which he says that
Bro. and Sister Briggs from Ill.
have made Magnolia their
home. Glad to hear it.

Your suggestion as to clear-
ing away mortgage is reason-
able. The interest is something!

What is Ray doing now?
Wish he were occupied with
pastoral or evangelistic work.

Last Sunday a.m. I
preached in the N. M. C. A. B. B.

church on "God." Have become quite well acquainted with the pastor. Intend to avail myself of any other opportunities for carrying the message.

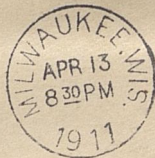
How is Everett progressing in school. I think it will not be difficult for him to show up well, especially in sciences. I think that is his stronghold. How are Grandma and Aunt Le? What about Mils?

Enough. Will write next week.

Your loving son,

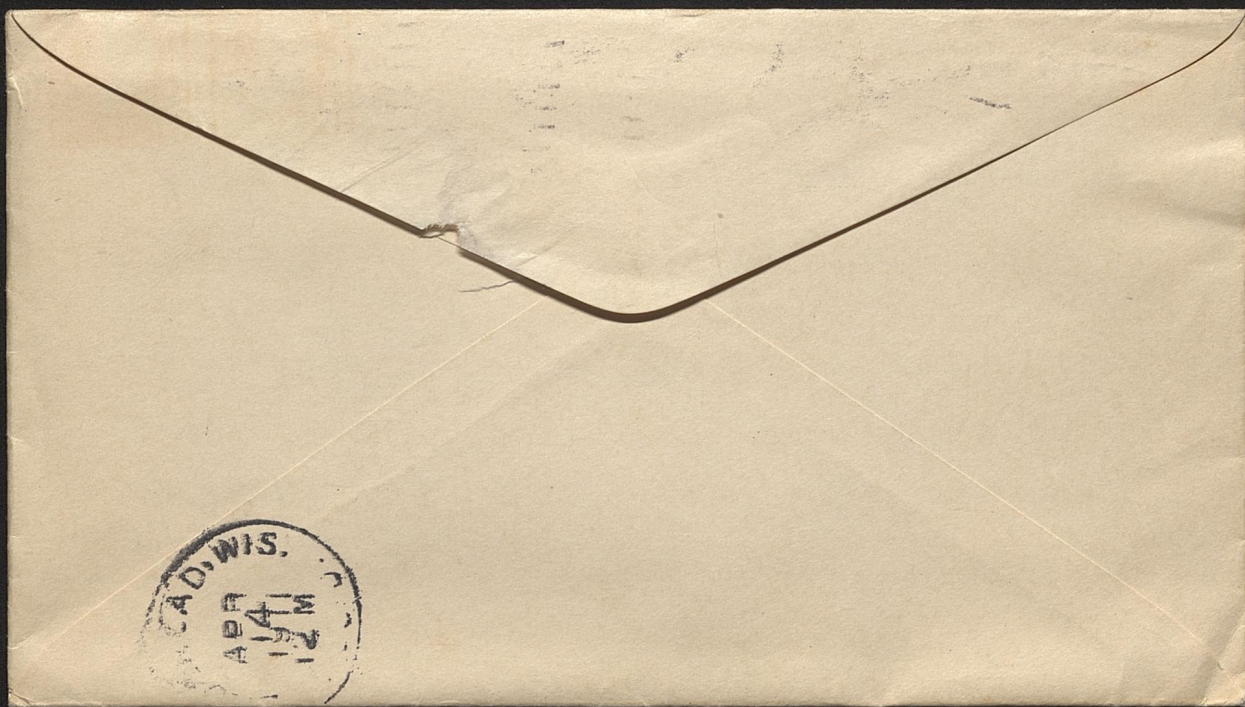
Ralph L. Bowden

mil. y. m. c. a. -
P. O. B. - 510



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,
Brookhead,
Green Co.,
Wis.

150



mil. y. m. c. a.,
April 20, 1911.

Dear Mother: - Your card just received.

I am glad to hear that the preparations for camp are made. No doubt the Watertown people will greatly profit by it; but it is to be hoped that they will wake up. What is Spaulding doing? Is Baraboo still on the map? Is Chetek in existence? I doubt not that Magnolia and Mifflin are well. Lately I have thought that it is a shame that there are not more strong churches throughout the state. There is a real need for churches with strong, intelligent pas-

those who know our faith and are
willing to hold it up in power.
No church will have the divine
blessing unless it is true to its
mission. Agitation is needed.

Have heard nothing from Loyd.
He is always slow in writing.

What my camp prospects are, I
know not. May have a couple weeks
vacation this summer, but do not
know when. Will get to camp if
by any means possible.

Before I forget, I would like
to ask if it would be possible for
me to procure the remaining articles
of my series on "eternal life".
When I was at home New Year's,
I got all there were then, 17 sections.

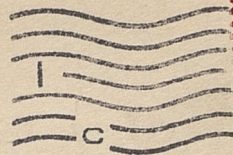
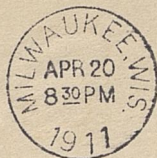
There were about 23 or 25 sections altogether, appearing in every other issue. If it is possible, and the folks at Grandma's and Aunt Lue's do not want the articles left in the papers (Our Hope), I would like to have them sent to me next week, and would be thankful in the extreme to Grandma and anyone else concerned.

Got that card from Grandma and Aunt. Hope they continue well. Are things freshening in the country? See little fresh here, except in the parks and city outskirts, which I seldom reach.

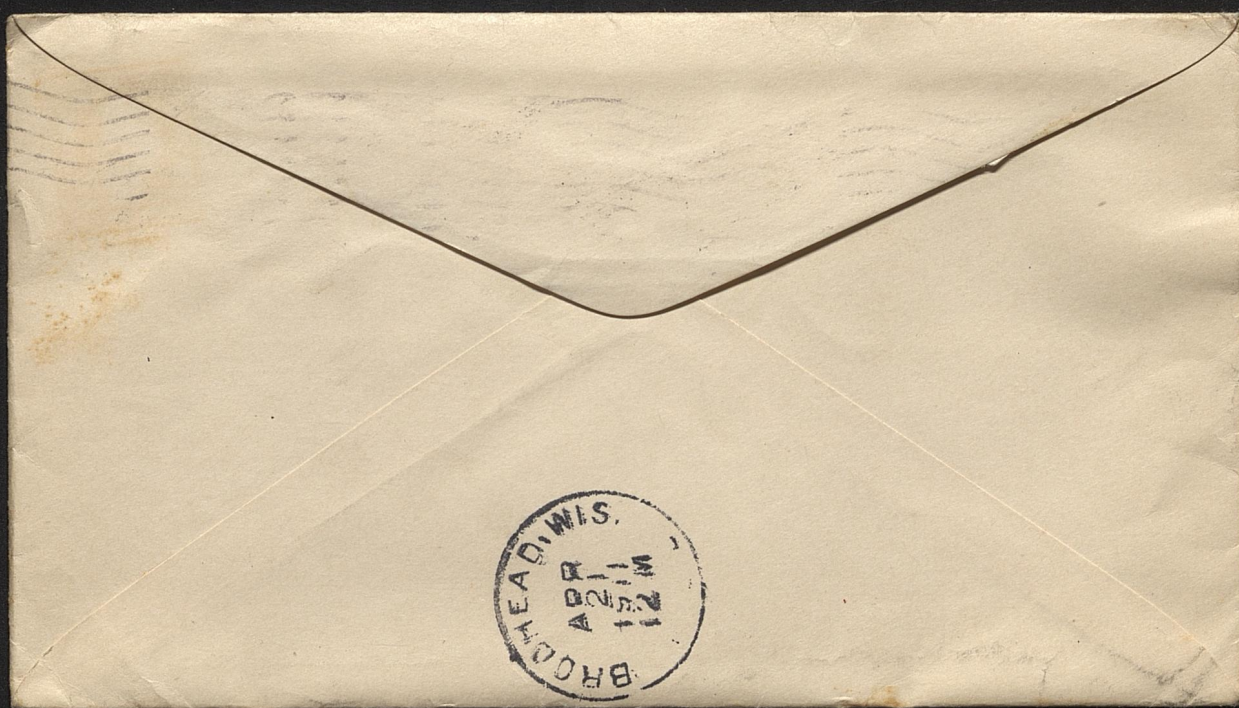
How how Everett get along?

Your son, Ralph

Q7B - mil.
y. m. e. a.



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,
Brodhead,
Green Co.,
Wisconsin.



Mil. Y. M. C. A.,

May 11, 1911.

Dear mother: - Your letter just received and read, four times at least. The enclosed blossoms and leaves are true memorials of country life. I was pleased to find evidences of life in the midst of the fragrance - a tiny green bug, the first I have seen since last fall some time. After a hasty examination, I deposited it on the floor, where the matron, who can see dirt a half-dozen yards away which I could not discern with a microscope at close range, will probably find it ready for funeral services.

I am glad to say that my chances for camp are larger. In conven-

sation with the general secretary's assistant, I learned that he has considered me for vacation during the last half of June. It would be necessary for me to be back at work at least by the 27th. of June, as summer school begins on the 28th. While this is not settled, it is not improbable. In this way it would be possible for me to spend a little time on the grounds before the 16th. of the month. Will know more about it later.

I hope Miles will make the best of things. He seems to have a chance, at least. I tried to write him.

Ray, I hope, will endeavor to avoid friction and misunderstanding,

as far as possible. God is greater than men. No one who is right at heart need flinch in the face of unreason or pride.

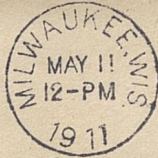
Next Wednesday a.m. I am scheduled to read a paper on "Religious Work" before the secretaries' class. Have started it. I intend to be plain and straightforward.

Have not heard from Sister or William recently. Wrote them last. Nothing from Loyal.

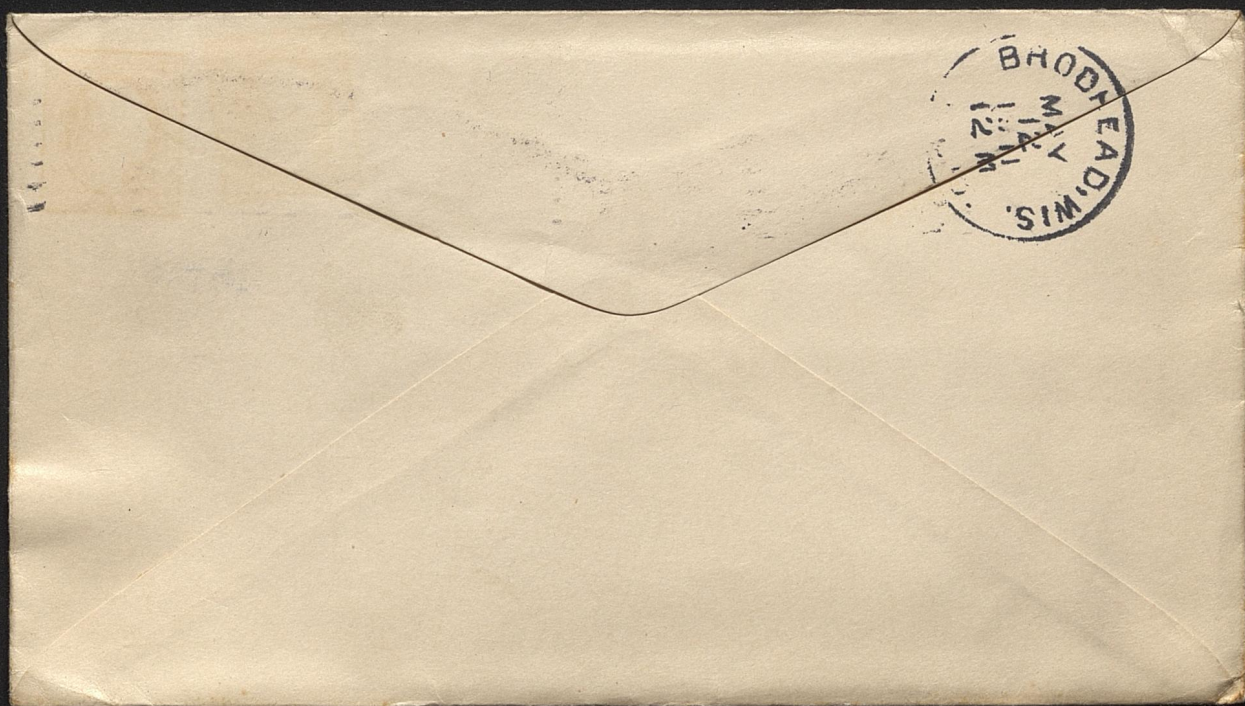
I have on hand here two prepared series of articles on "Demonology" and "Immortality". One in preparation - "The Holy Spirit".

Your loving son,
Ralph.

y. m. c. a.
mt.



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,
Brookhead,
Green Co.,
Wis.



The Young Men's Christian Association

Officers

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DR. E. W. KELLOGG, 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT
A. E. MIELENZ, 2ND VICE-PRESIDENT
W. H. BENDER, RECORDING SECRETARY
EWALD HAASE, TREASURER

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W. S. PADDOCK	C. F. KECK
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PHILIP B. WILLIS, ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY
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F. C. COGGESHALL, BOYS' SECRETARY
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A. H. STEGENGA, OFFICE SECRETARY
R. T. BOWDEN, ASSISTANT OFFICE SECRETARY

141-149 FOURTH STREET

MILWAUKEE, May 25, 1911.

Dear mother: -

You should have observed the appreciation shown by the secretaries when I let them inhale the fragrance of the sweet briar, etc. To men who spend most of their time in offices, such things are indeed sweet.

This morning I read before the secretarial class a paper on "Religious Work", 18 pp. It met with universal approval, though the language was not at all ^(mild or retractive) minced or retractive. Hope to get it typewritten. "C. B.", the "big chief", advised me to preserve the paper till a rel. work director is secured. Several others commented well on it, one, the asst. physical director, W. H. Flood, who leaves this June, asking for a copy of it. He is about the most spiritual man on the force.

This afternoon I have spent several hours at Jurean Park, on the lake front. It is composed of steep hill drops. Magnificent!
(over)

The Young Men's Christian Association

Officers

WM. M. POST, PRESIDENT
DR. E. W. KELLOGG, 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT
A. E. MIELENZ, 2ND VICE-PRESIDENT
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141-149 FOURTH STREET

Executive Officers

C. B. WILLIS, GENERAL SECRETARY
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T. F. SCHROEDER, ASSISTANT BOYS' SECRETARY
A. H. STEGENGA, OFFICE SECRETARY
R. T. BOWDEN, ASSISTANT OFFICE SECRETARY

MILWAUKEE, May 25, 1911.

You need not worry about Dick's stubbornness. He will find occasion to repent in shame. Nor is there occasion to be anxious about my going to camp. The asst. gen'l. sec'y Brown I want to go to camp, though I have not made mention of the denomination. I do not think the management would have gut enough to trample on my religious beliefs.

Beulah seems to be looking with pleasure toward camp. Tell Ray I shall leave here, if I do, briling over with business concentration, which must be expended somewhere. Am longing to explode. Everett must be used well. He is no fool! He has immense business capability, which must be developed in the right direction. Nothing more from Miles. How about Mendota college? Hope it succeeds.

Your loving son,

Ralph T. Bowden

Asst. Office Sec'y.

In 5 Days return to

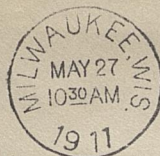
Young Men's Christian Association

143 FOURTH STREET

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

POSTED

R. T. B.



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,
Brookfield,

Wis.

Green Co.

Loyal -
Helena, Ga.



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R. T. BOWDEN, ASSISTANT OFFICE SECRETARY

MILWAUKEE, (May!) June 1, 1911.

Dear mother:-

The reference to Everett which my last contained had no reference to any communication from anybody, but was altogether a thought of my own: that Everett can prove a very useful factor in genuine work.

The Y. M. C. A. has been building rooms on the back half of the 8th floor. When completed, there will be 157 rooms for dormitory purposes.

Tell Ray that the new time-tables of the interurban to Watertown are not out yet, but that the cars will leave the Public Service Bldg. in the morning hourly from 8.30 on. The time consumed will be an hour and a half or two hours. There is a car which leaves, also, I think, at 11.15 a.m. This I may take. Sorry I cannot be sure now. In fact, I am not sure when my vacation will come. Stegerga intends to get married this summer; so will not teach in summer-school after all. Therefore my uncertainty.

(over)

The flowers are exceedingly welcome. Lately I have found in Milwaukee some very beautiful districts, and this in spite of the fact that Milwaukee made Schlotzky famous!

The Gideon convention comes to Milwaukee this year. The Y. M. C. A. will be the real headquarters.

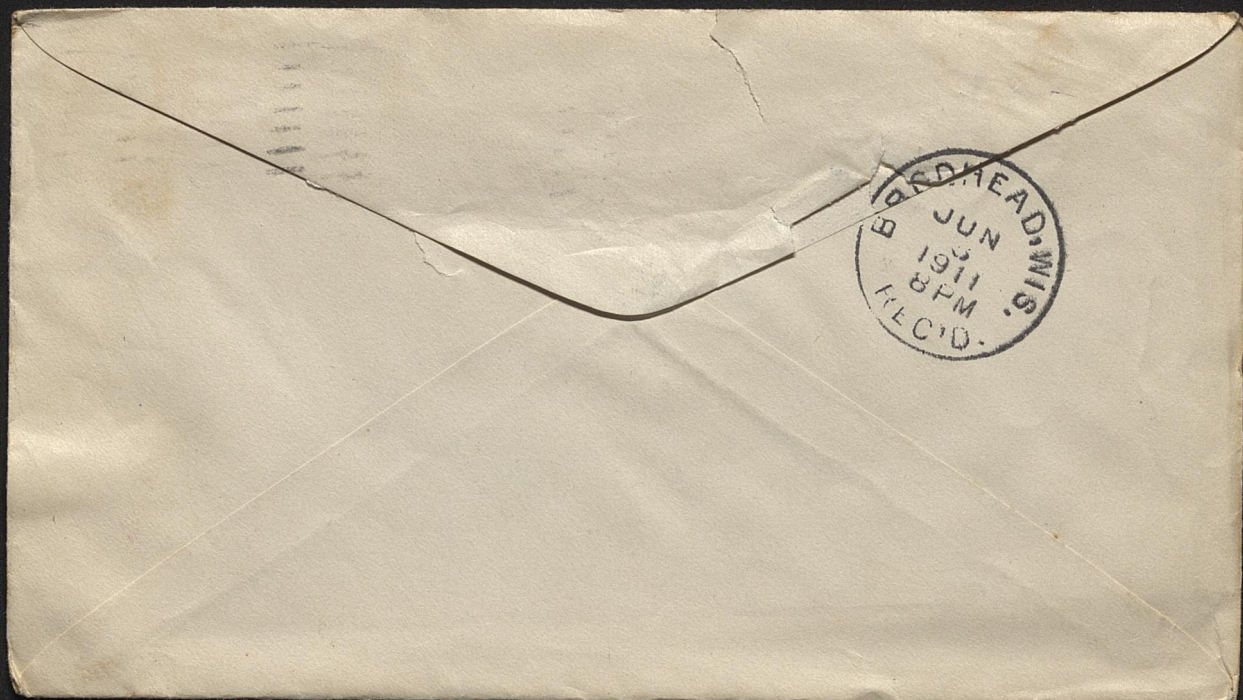
I wonder if Jerks or any other Illinois brethren will be up this summer. Am praying for a good attendance. Hope the ordos will come in fast. It is, of course, deplorable that Dick so little co-operates, but the meeting must be advanced. Wish I were more in touch with the field. - Next week I shall specify more fully with regard to things I want brought to camp. There will not be much. If I go, I shall bring a quantity of underclothing and shirts in an unwearable condition.

Hope Grandma and Aunt Lu are in good health and spirits. - I think Miles will suffer more from being coddled than anything else. If permitted he would run wild with everything he can reach. Nothing to fret about. He has, I must say, a very good chance, with nobody but himself to think of. If that isn't good, what does he want? He feels that somebody is forever going to carry him on their knees. We are too rigorous for that up here at the "Y".
As ever, your son,
P.D. - will mail checks soon. *P.D.*

In 5 Days return to
Young Men's Christian Association
143 FOURTH STREET
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,
Brodhead,
Green Co.,
Wis.



BROOKHEAD, MINN.
JUN 1911
8 PM REC'D.

mil. y. m. l. a.,
6-5-1911,

Dear Mother :-

Enclosed find bank draft for twenty dollars (\$20.00) to help things along. In returning from the bank I met Prof. Dietz of Monroe. He said that he understood Sister was going to White-water this summer. Is it true? The Professor's retured visage is as round as ever.

Have settled it. My vacation begins June 13, when I shall probably take the interurban car to Watertown, unless this is too early for Ray. Want to have as much time outside

Milwaukee as possible. I go to
work again on the 27th. Settled!

I will write later in the
week letting Ray know when, exact-
ly, I will get there. If the
13th is too early let me know
by this week's first mail you
send. My second of this week will
follow news from home. If nec-
essary, Ray can drop me a
line so as to reach me the
first of next week concerning
his chances of meeting me, etc.

In great haste,

your son,
Ralph.

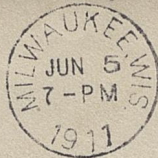
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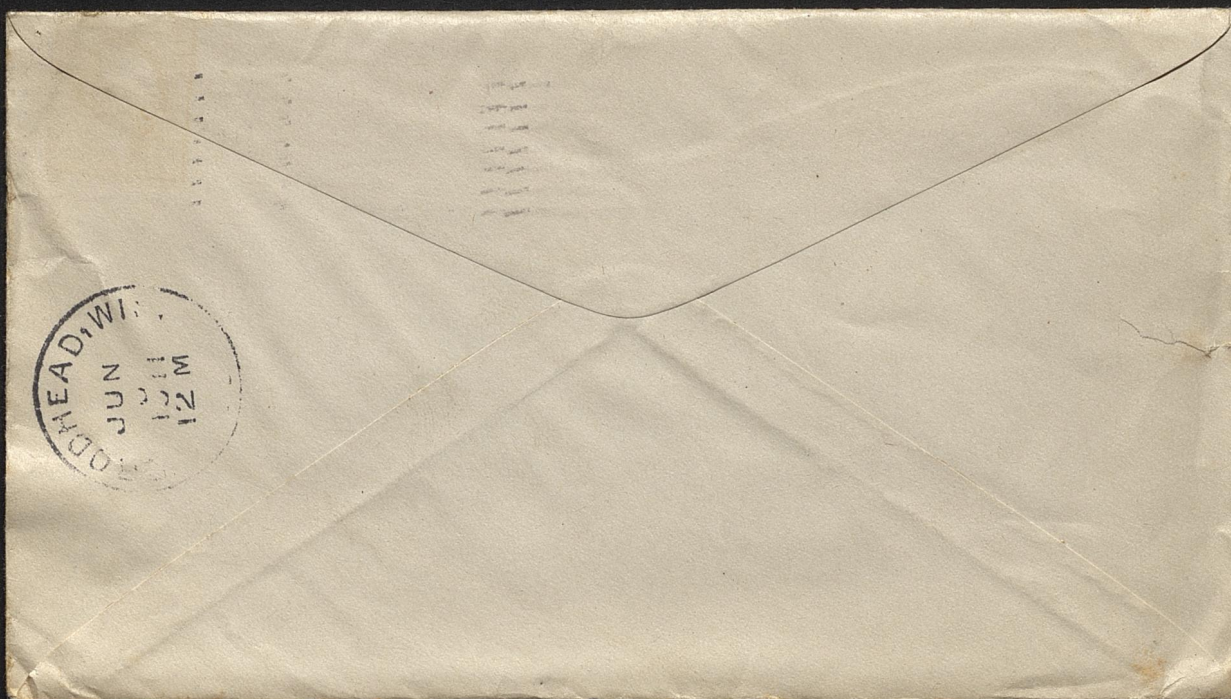
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R. T. B.



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,
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141-149 FOURTH STREET

MILWAUKEE, June 8, 1911.

Dear mother:- Your card and Ray's received. I will let Ray hear from me, probably tomorrow, at Watertown, as to leaving. Ray need not worry about my going out upon the breakwater as I have never been out there but once, and that late last fall during the teachers' convention. I have been at the parks several times and near the water, but never in it.

I have bought an extra suit-case and packed it to the cover with unusable underclothing, shirts, socks, and handkerchiefs. If I have any shirt waists left at home, they will be useful to me.

Bring with you Favours Hymns; Harris' two song-books, the red and the gray; Winona Hymns (which I left in the organ shelves when I left at New Year's); also any thing you may think of which I cannot read which I would be likely to use. Do not bring for me anything which I would not be apt to

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141-149 FOURTH STREET

MILWAUKEE.

utilize in song, etc. There are a number of large envelopes filled with valuable music which are to be found in the organ-shelves. Some of these I would certainly like, but if you have not room for all, do not endeavor to bring them. There are two copies of Harris' music which I sent for just before camp and rec'd at camp; those are in the organ, and I wish you would by all means secure and bring them. The songs in that leaflet (of which there are two copies) are running continually in my head. These leaflets may be in the envelopes; if so, I want them anyhow. If you do not understand what I mean, Aunt Lucy can tell you, for she has a copy. Also I wish that you or sister would look in in my shelves in the northwest bedroom for a box (part-board, made either for envelopes or for my muffler) which contains several articles of mine written before I came here on the subjects

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MILWAUKEE.

of "heresy", "baptism", and "preexistence"; perhaps one or two others I do not recall. Thank you ever so much!!!

Tell Sister to take lots of exercise and be well, also yourself by all means. A week of vigorous exercise will do more than a half year of inactive existence in air! Tell Everett to put his energies into whatever line of work he thinks most suited to him. I expect him to become a mechanic or electrician. Tell Grandma I will not have time to write her too, but was immensely pleased to hear from her words which indicate what a keeping power the pure gospel has had upon her, and by divine help I mean to be true. Greetings and love to Aunt Lucy.

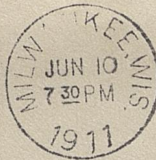
Your loving son,
Ralph.

In 5 Days return to

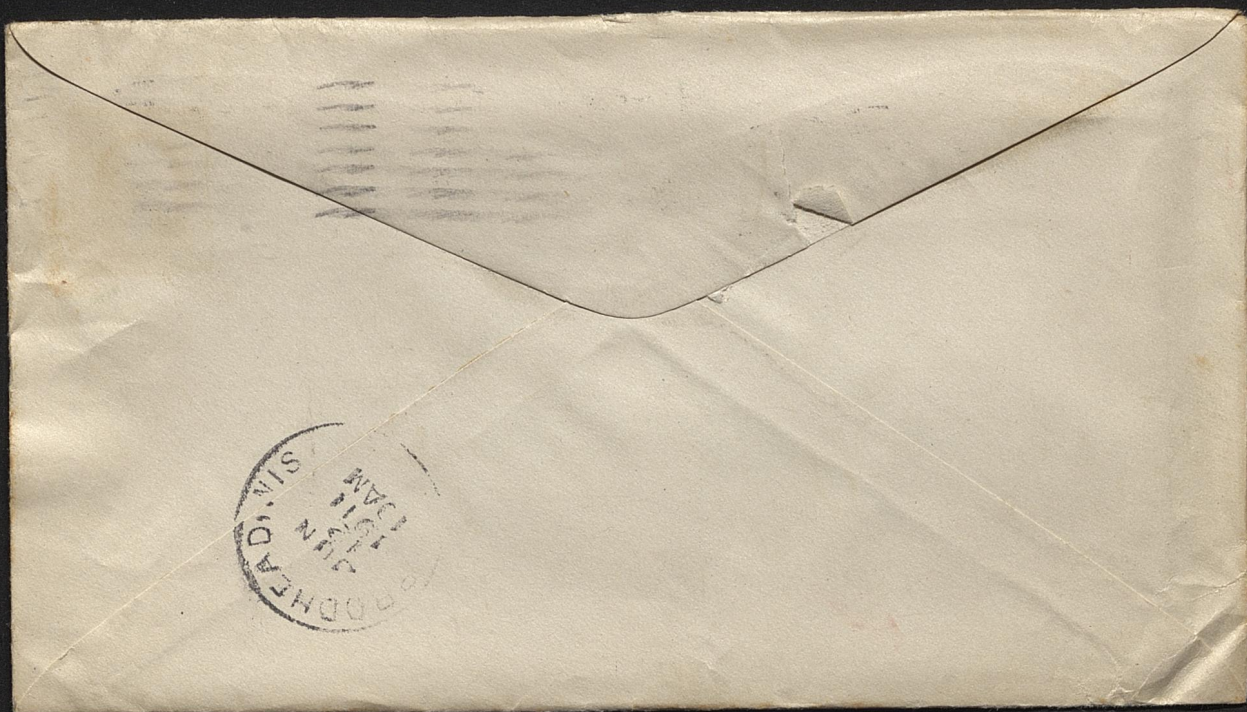
Young Men's Christian Association

143 FOURTH STREET

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



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Brodhead,
Green Co.,
Wisconsin.



mil. y.m.c.a.,

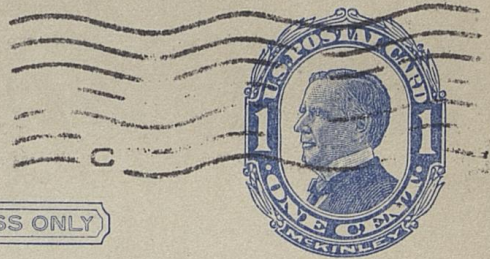
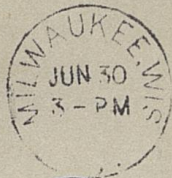
JUN 30 1911

Dear Mother:-

Am at work. Secured
a copy of "The Holy
city" at once. Have
drawn full month's
pay. Sister Lorne
O.K.? How about Ray?
Say "Goodbye" for
me. I forgot! How
is Everett? Grandma
& Aunt Lucy home
all right? More
later. Your son,

R.T. Bowder.

POSTED
R.T.B.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS ONLY

Mrs. J. S. Borden,
Brookfield,
Green Co.,
25 Wis.

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MILWAUKEE, June 6, 1911.

Dear Mother :- This is my afternoon off. Had Tues. afternoon off too this week.

I wish you would send me the business address of the "World's Crisis". Am thinking of getting a copy of "History Unveiling Prophecy".

Your card received. Surely the "y" piano are like solid boards to play on. They are almost discouraging.

The office secretary goes for vacation on the 15th. Then comes my turn to work. He will get married this month.

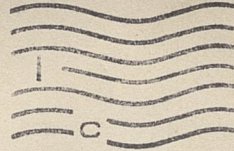
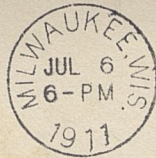
Nothing interesting in town now. I think I shall go to the park this P. M.

Glad to hear Grandma is better.

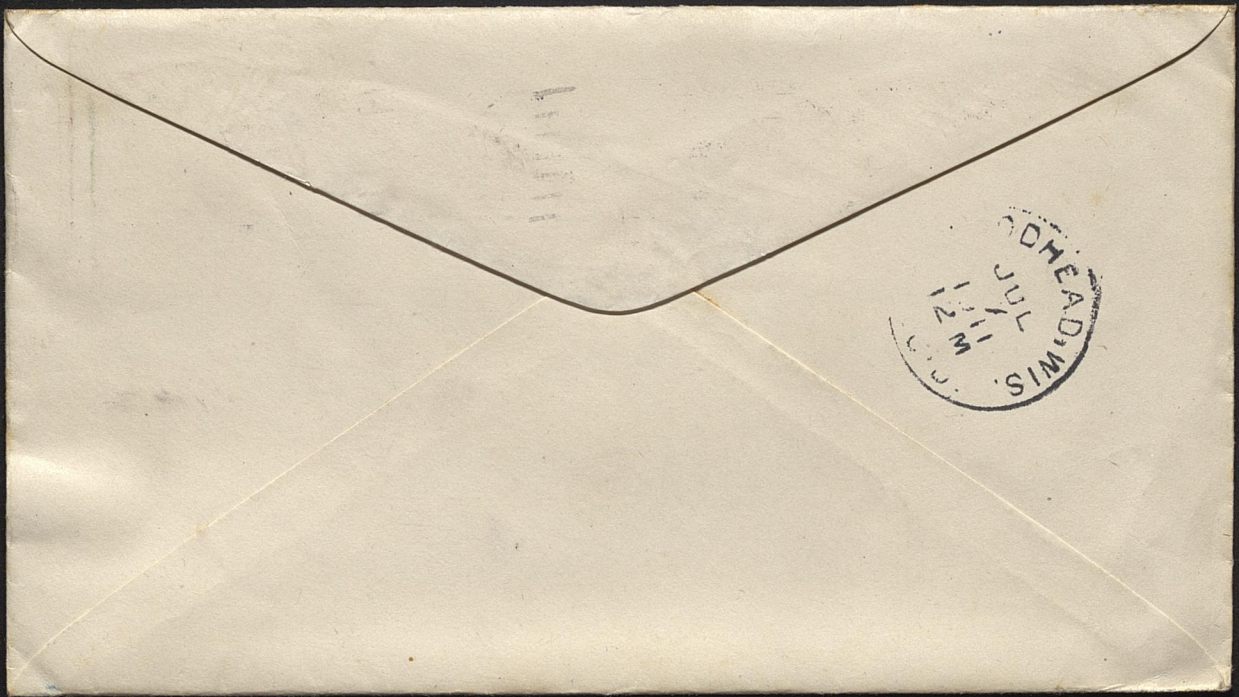
Enclosed find check (cashier's) for \$20.00. How does Sister enjoy her glasses or hasn't she got them yet? What about Ray and Everett, etc.

Your loving son, Ralph

In 5 Days return to
Young Men's Christian Association
143 FOURTH STREET
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,
Brodhead,
Green Co.,
Wisc.



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MILWAUKEE, July 20, 1911.

Dear Mother:-

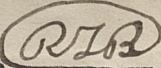
Have just returned from a call on Mrs. Gordon, with whom Mrs. Wood is staying. Mrs. Gordon seems quite anxious to have an A. L. church here. She knows another lady (name Tessel or Tursen, or similar) who came from LaSalle, and lives very near by. While I was there, she called.

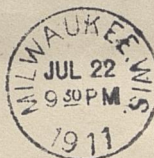
The office-secretary, who is on his vacation, was to be married yesterday.

Sunday A.M. I tended the office; in the afternoon I went out with the gospel wagon, and was nearly mobbed by several dozen and score of children at the park for copies of John's gospel which were placed in my hands for distribution there. After supper attended E. L. service at G. A. M. E., and later went to the meeting at the Rescue Mission.

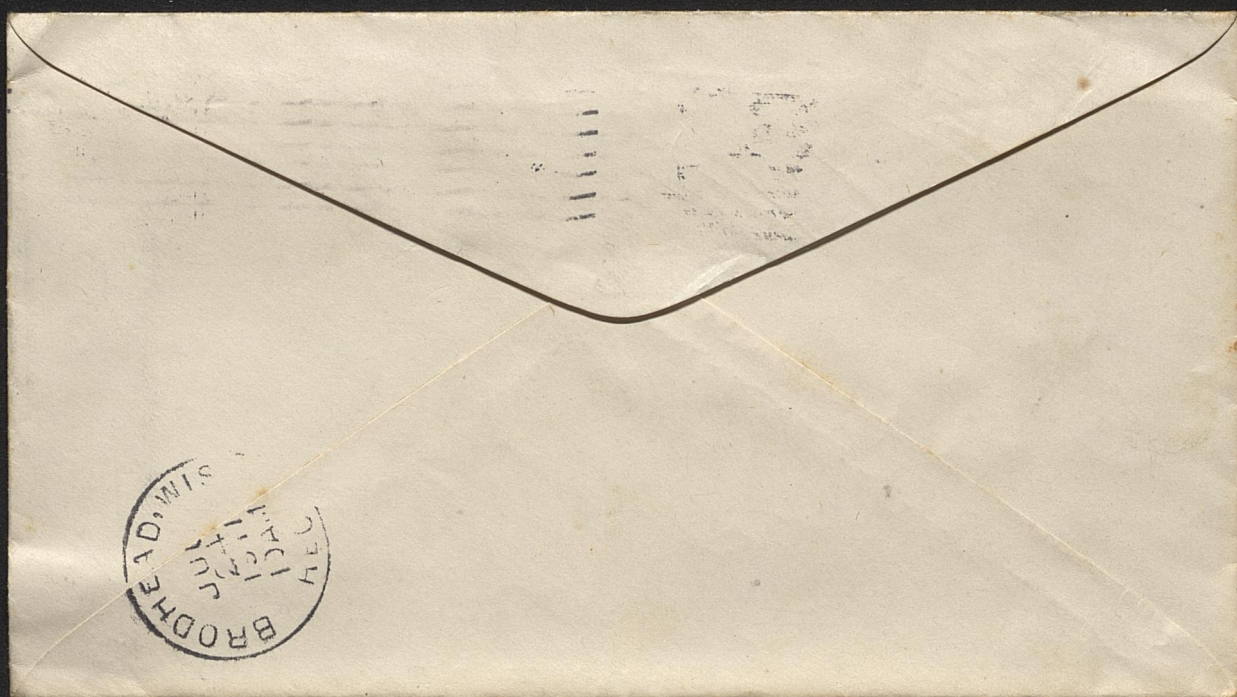
Am doing an immense amount of writing these days, but not letters.

Your loving Son,
Ralph.

In 5 Days return to 
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143 FOURTH STREET
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,
Brodhead,
Green Co.,
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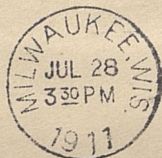
MILWAUKEE, July 27, 1911.

Dear mother:- Yours just received, with Ray's included. Received a letter from Sister today. She thinks Paul Dwight and his folks the best ever. Says she has done nothing but play and sew. She likes the people and admires the scenery. Sister says her glasses are very comfortable now. Mills preached there Sunday, and did well, but his ideas of life are too crooked to suit your daughter, and well so!

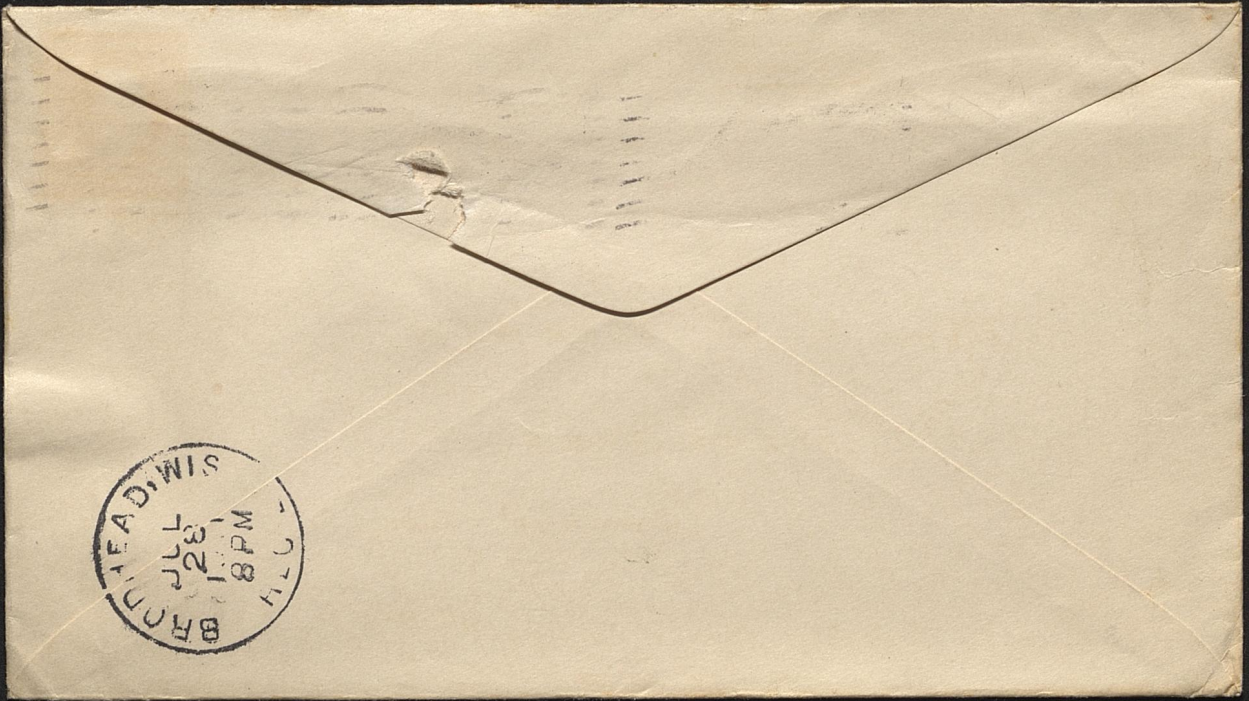
The Yidems, the Christian Commercial Travellers of America, held their national convention here, July 21-22. They kept us busy all right. Sunday morning I went to the Second Church of Christ with three of them and played the organ.

I keep writing, and use the gym. In the office we now have a costly telephone system, requiring operators. Do not have to bother with phones now, but our new rooms will enlarge my work otherwise. As ever, your son, Ralph.

mil. r. m. c. a -
R. Bowden



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,
Brookland,
Green Co.,
Wis.



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R. T. BOWDEN, ASSISTANT OFFICE SECRETARY

MILWAUKEE, Aug. 3, 1911.

Dear Mother:- The announcement that Everett is going to accompany Ray to Mendota is pleasant to me. Nothing just now would please me greater than to see Everett focusing his truly great abilities in the direction of manly effort and endeavor. He is potentially capable of great things.

Ray is to be congratulated upon his watchful thoughtfulness in letting you know of your weekly appointment, and in his success in securing a remarkably clear and natural photograph. I shall gratefully prize it. Give him my thanks. My own photograph will not be taken till next fall some time, when I can afford it better.

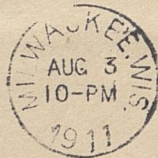
Nervous mind Sister. She is able to take care of herself!

We have had several fine rains here lately.

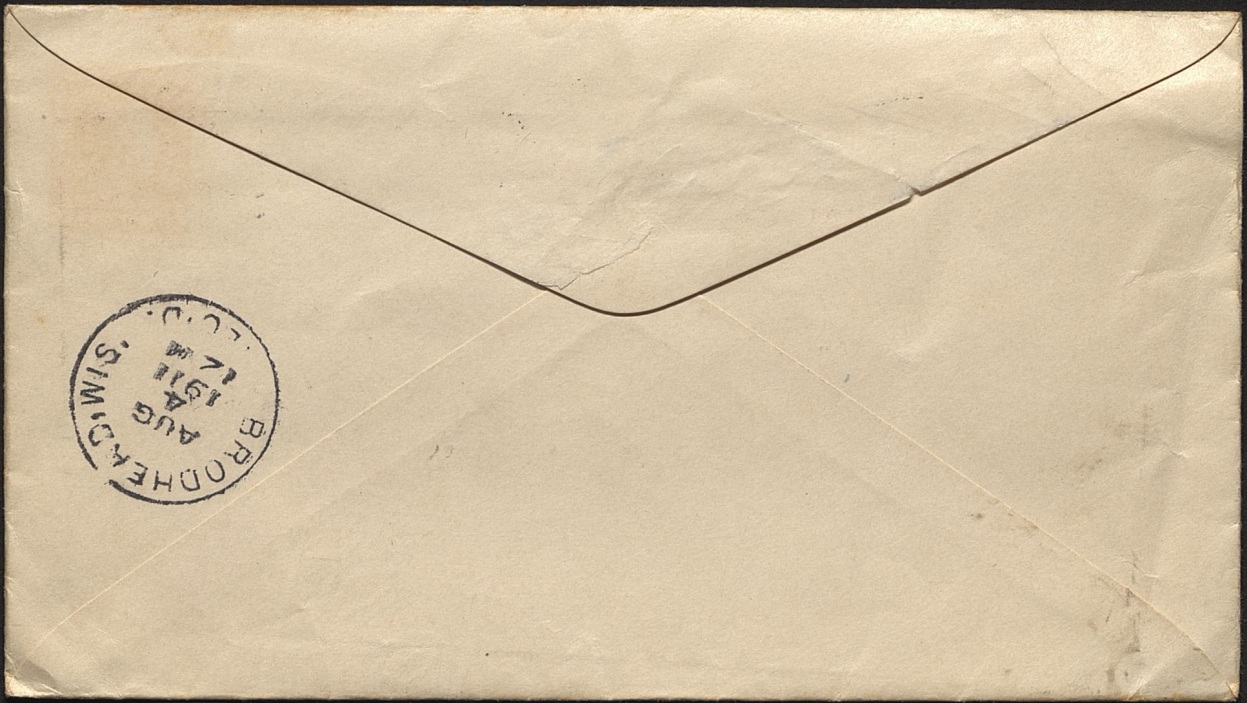
To-day a young bull-headed profane Jew is being expelled from the building on my recommendation. I have commenced an official censorship on my floor. A continuous, mighty big noise was promptly stopped on my complaint. War on rats! (Don't tell Ray!) Ralph

Mt. Y. M. C. A.,

Rd 2



Mrs. J. S. Boudin,
Brodhead,
Green Co.,
Wis.



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MILWAUKEE, Aug. 7, 1911.

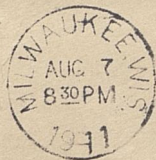
Dear Mother: -

Enclosed find cashier's check for 20⁰⁰.

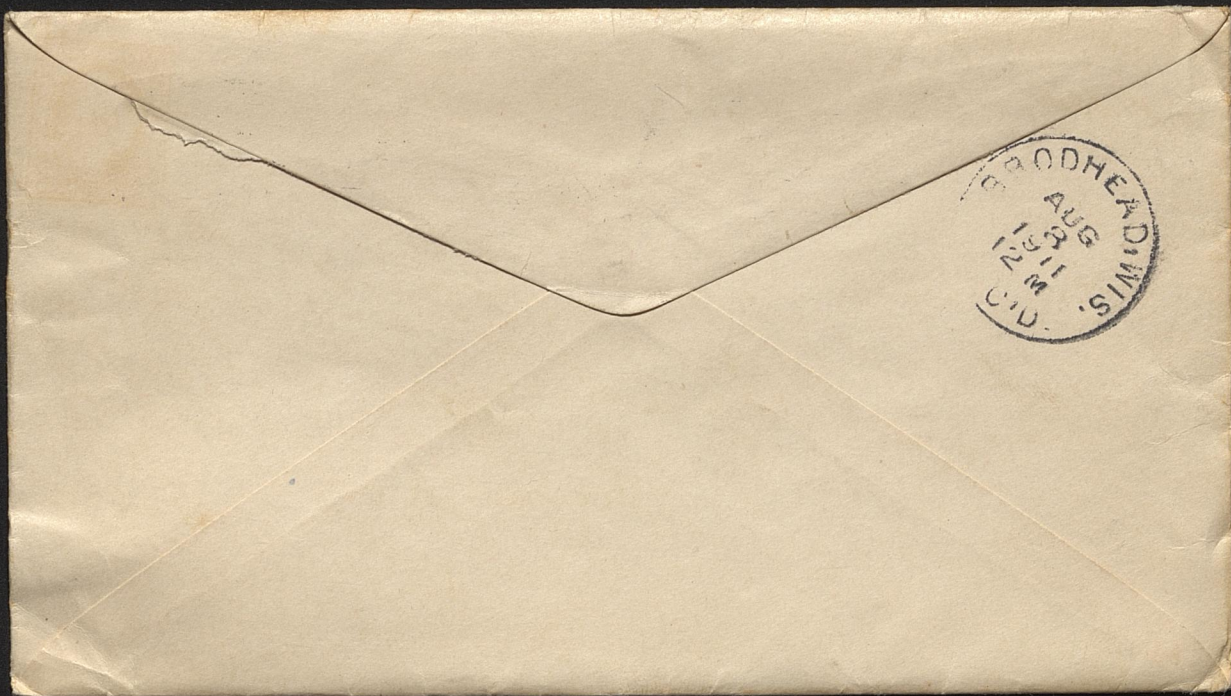
In haste,

Ralph D.

mil. y. m. c. a.,
Q2B



Mrs. J. S. Borden,
Brodhead,
Guern Co.,
Wis.



GOODHEAD
AUG
1896
C.D. SIMS

The Young Men's Christian Association

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R. T. BOWDEN, ASSISTANT OFFICE SECRETARY

141-149 FOURTH STREET

MILWAUKEE, Aug. 9, 1911.

Dear Mother:-

Have received, this week, cards from you and Sister and a letter from Miles. Sister expects to reach home this week, so I am sending her's inclosed. - Miles raises these strenuous objections against my joining any other church. "You will make a serious mistake if you join the M. E. Ch. There is no need for it. If you want to work with them while there, well and good, but join, never. If you are an Adventist it is your business to keep your membership with such. But don't let it be said one of the Bowdens has joined the Methodist Church. Never. For no reason. Better quit there than change your membership, if necessary." "Why don't you take your work in more conjugal quarters?" Positive, all right. But where shall I go, without any professional or mechanical training other than my present experience affords, and without, as yet, the funds necessary to secure such. It is one thing to talk, but another to act. Were there any other outlook which would expose an opportunity to get into connection with permanent A. E. work, I would investigate; but I am not

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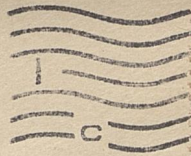
141-149 FOURTH STREET

MILWAUKEE.

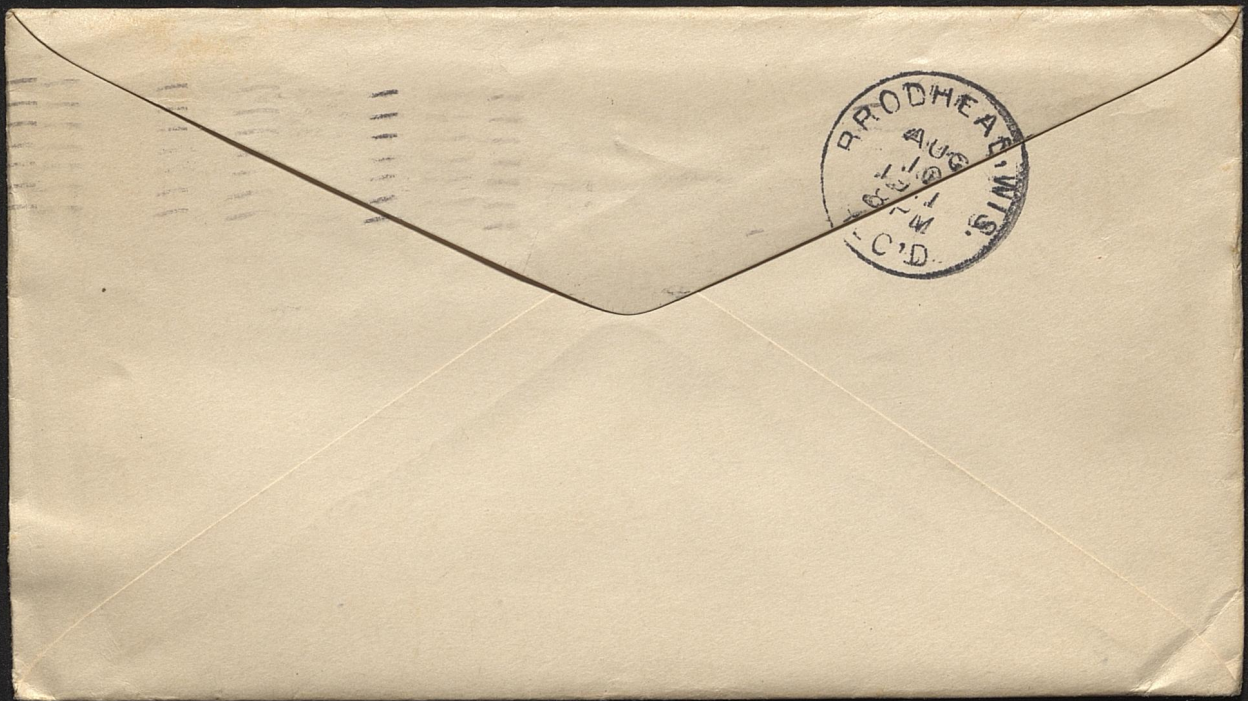
a reckless fool. Mr. Willis is insistent in his demands that all of the secretaries be members of local churches, and he is reasonable in it. If I refuse to comply, there is no alternative but to leave my work, and step into nothing. I consider my opportunities here tenfold as great as if I were teaching school, religious work not excluded. Outside of the institution a rival Y.M.C.A., there is nothing I could enter of a religious nature except the A.C. church. There nothing is open, we liable to be, except to graduates of the college. If the way were entirely clear, in every way, I would enter and finish there; but without gold, that is impossible. William counselled me to stick to the "Y" until I could enter college, and I think he was right. Miles has got to move some to get me a-going yet. (P.S. Did you receive the draft for \$20.00?)
Your loving son, Ralph

mil. y. m. c. a.,

R.L.R.



ms. J. S. Bowden,
Brodhead,
Green Co.,
Wis.



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R. T. BOWDEN, ASSISTANT OFFICE SECRETARY

MILWAUKEE, Aug. 17, 1911.

Dear Mother:-

Last week I wrote my brother Miles a deliberately- worded three-page missive which would surely have burned all the stupidity out of the ordinary head. In compliance with my request he permitted Bro. Arnold to read it; as a result I received this week from my pastor one of the most prudent and discreet letters which I have ever been pleased to receive. His spirit was excellent. He suggests the matter as a subject for earnest prayer - Point 1. He expresses himself as opposed to the plan as a policy, but declines to decide for me - Point 2. He thinks that to join a Methodist ^{church} would presume my approval with their doctrines, in the absence of disapprobation - Point 3. He declares his faith in the constant care of his ^{true} children by our Father - Point 4. He outlines the need of young men in the A. C. work, and states his confidence in the possibility of my securing a pastorate with fair compensation - Point 5. He made one bad

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MILWAUKEE.

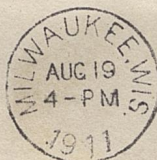
blunder in the suggestion that if I told the officers that I could not conscientiously write with any other church, they would or might give me work where we have a church. The truth is this: if some of the chief officers had the opportunity to read some of the treatises which I have written in the privacy of my room, they would eitheroust me or make it too warm for any flock to endure. The thing that goads me is the necessity of squelching my faith! Some day I may explode, and it will carry me clear out of the institution any way! If I had the opportunity to get an honorable start in the A. C. ministry I would do it, for if I don't, something will go off, sooner or later, and then I will be carried to the skies on the disjointed fragments of a once whole seat!

It is indescribably difficult to put one's faith into cold storage!

Your son on the war-path,

Ralph.

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Young Men's Christian Association
143 FOURTH STREET
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

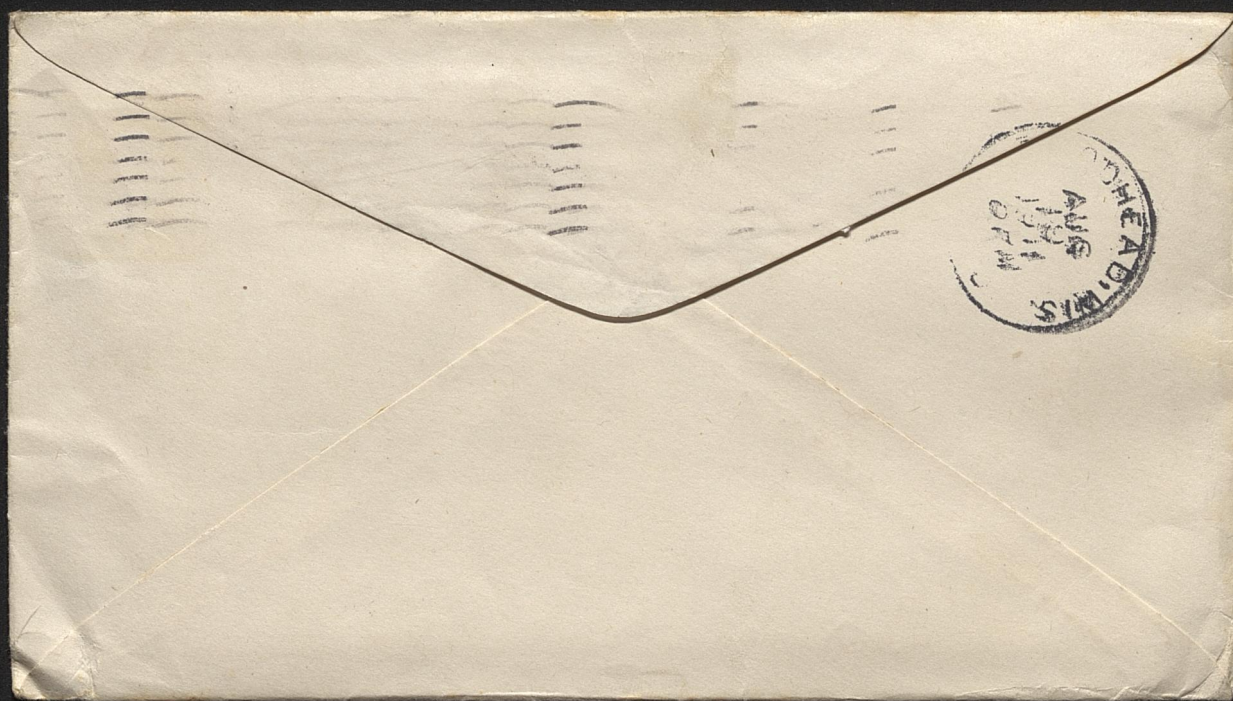


Mrs. J. S. Borden,
Brookland,
Green Co.,

Wis.

Foot of Dickson St!

200



The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee, Aug. 24, 1911.

Dear Mother: -

You are mistaken. I positively deny having worried over the situation. On the contrary, I have deliberately and finally settled the question. This morning I had a frank talk with the general secretary in which I told him that I did not feel warranted in transferring my membership for various clear reasons, and therefore could not fulfill his requirement; hence I would have to leave my work. He acknow-

The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee.

ledged my obligation to act conscientiously, and, while affirming his reluctance to loose me, conceded my point. Hence, as soon as he can supply my position, I shall depart. Is that worry? I believe in Divine guidance as well as human advancement. Are you now afraid of my nettle? My path is clear. I have spurned entangling alliances!

Am not troubled about the future. I think that the One who led me to take this step can lead my future walk. Received a letter

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Christian Association

Milwaukee.

from Wm. at Mendota in which he calls for a reply. He says he has a call both to Buchanan and to Mifflin, and is uncertain at present, but asks how I consider Mifflin. He urged me not to be hasty, however.

This morning Rev. Hagerman of Y. A. M. E. was urging me to join there; the other night I had several hours play and conversation with Pastor Williams, of the Second Church of Christ. I told him of my faith in Conditionalism. He said he was inclined that way himself. I told

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Christian Association

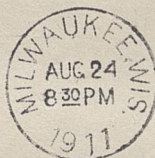
him of Adventism, ^{Milwaukee,} and he suggested a debate,
which I should accept if I were here long.
Finally he solicited my membership, on the
ground that his denomination did not have a
creed. Before I got done I communicated my
faith in the destruction of the wicked. He said
that looked reasonable to him!!! How is that?
Address me here next week, as usual.

Yours conclusively,
Ralph

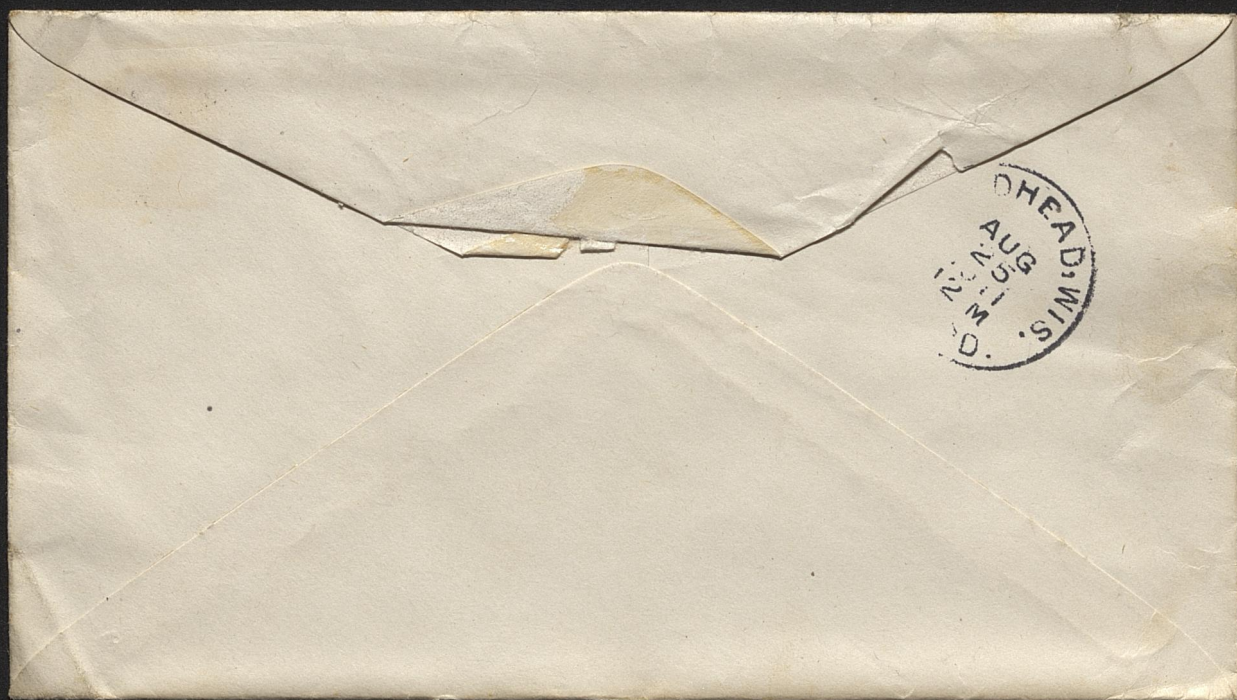
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Young Men's Christian Association

RFB 143 FOURTH STREET
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,
Brodhead,
Green Co.,
Wis.



The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee,

Sept. 1, 1911.

Dear Mother:-

Your letter just read. The pages of my letter preceding this were written yesterday. Yours arrived this morning.

Evidently you and Sister fully approved my action of last week. So did I, but Wm. wrote me some intensely stirring and significant things. He expects to stay at Mifflin, in the first place! He said he did not care the snap of his finger for my suggestion that our people would discredit

The Young Men's
Christian Association

me if I temporarily ^{joined} ^{Milwaukee} church, because he knew it was untrue. Wm. says that he could join half the American Protestant churches of Milwaukee without subscribing to anything he does not believe. Indeed, if I am asked to uphold any principle I do approve, I will not join. I made the issue a clear one with the general secretary, also with my personal associate, the official secretary. I have not yet violated conscience or revelation, and will not. But I did conclude to follow Wm's sober

The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee,

and sound advice to wait until I received a definite divine call to go somewhere for some definite work. So far, there has been little demand or request for my services in any way. Indeed, Ketch told me that if they could not arrange for me in Wisconsin this summer, I better stay in Milwaukee for the present. I think, after all, I am on safe grounds. It is supremely necessary to avoid impulsive impetuosity and view the field calmly. God is my guide, and I

The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee.

think he has a plan for his truth. He alone
can safely lead me into duty. I should like
to please everybody, but cannot. I realize that
I ~~do~~ hold my future in safe keeping, so long
as my Father still leads. He has a way for
me; at present, it is here. Probably I shall
subscribe for the Hope and get certain books soon.
When the Lord puts me into A. C. work, I stand
ready. At present, a city pastor has a challenge
to a debate awaiting me. Time up.
Your loving son, (Ralph)

The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee, Aug. 31, 1911.

Dear mother:-

Last week I wrote you I had resigned; so I suppose you expect me home.

During the past week I have conducted a campaign of rapid-fire communication with Wm. He thinks my resignation was not a wise step; that a temporary membership in the Y. M. C. A. church will not require my subscription to things I disbelieve, nor injure ^{materially} my future chances for A. L. work. In his opinion it would be wise for me to wait the outcome of some things in the A. L. church during the next year rather than sacrifice all for a church that has not yet ^{wanted} me badly enough to use me. He thinks he could secure a position

The Young Men's
Christian Association

for me, but ^{Milwaukee.} counsel preparatory experience of my present
kind.

Probably he is correct. Surely it is not altogether reason-
able to appeal for satisfaction with a church that does
not desire one's services. I am not compromising in the
matter of truth, but I sense the stringent need of a
prudently discreet judgment in ecclesiastical matters. The
~~fact~~ was ~~in~~ ^{board} failed ^{utterly} to use me this summer;
hence it behooves me to educate myself in ways that
will elevate my practical ability and utility. I should
not think of remaining here if I thought it contrary to
God's will for me. I think God thinks deeper than some

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Milwaukee.

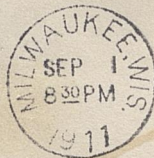
of his people. Wm. says truthfully that the A. C. people
are asleep, but that God's people are ^{nevertheless} in the
conquering way. Hence I this morning ^{recalled} my resign-
nation, inasmuch as the general secretary ^{has} failed to
secure a successor, and my address for this year will be
Milwaukee. My salary and influence ^{have} grown from
280⁰⁰ in Sept. 1909, to 840⁰⁰ in Sept. 1911. ^(mistake only 62. per mo. = 744.) I do not
crave the things of the world, but I think God is still
on his throne, and willing to let the world know of
coming wrath and destiny. Have not heard from you this
week. Enclosed find Costin's check.
Yours loving son,
Ralph

In 5 Days return to

Young Men's Christian Association

RR 143 FOURTH STREET *Asst. Office*
Secy.

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

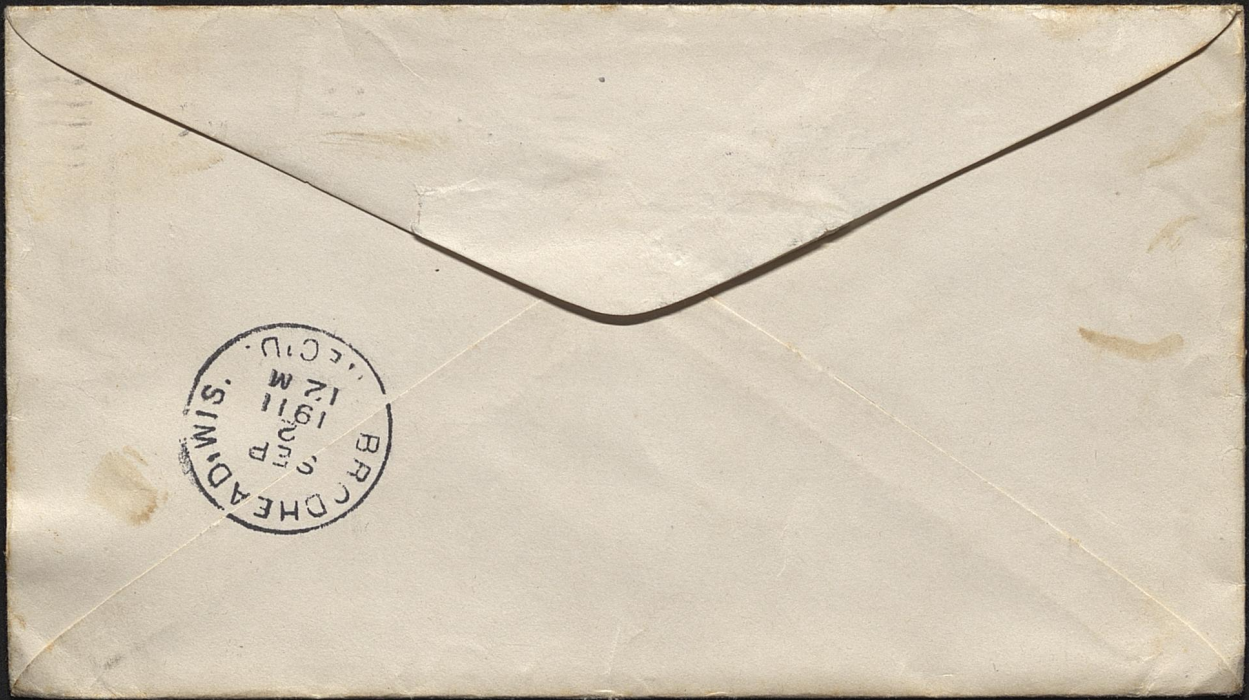


Mrs. J. S. Bowden,

Brodhead,

Green Co.,

Wis,



The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee,

Sept. 7, 1911,

Dear Mother:—

My salary is 62⁰⁰ per month. My previous statement was a misstatement.

The Y. A. M. E. church is the Grand Avenue M. E. church. It is three blocks west of Mrs. Armstrong.

Bro. Williams has not again broached the debate question.

Our people will have to learn that I do not propose to play with my life. My experience here would put me in a position such that I could,

The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee.

if I chose, learn accounting by correspondence, as others do, and finally get into a work which would bring me a salary from \$40 to \$100 a week. I know that, but such is not my plan. When I enter postal service it will be for energetic accomplishment, not uncertain dallying. I expect to see some changes in our denomination.

I wish the world would wake up. The signs of the end are fearfully portentious. Mark my words. This is not a joke. There is no time for pride here. There is no recognition for faithfulness in work, and we expect none.

The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee.

The ymca disdains hypocrisy; it ostracizes insincerity. No better cure for pride exists than a ymca experience. It leaves little basis for pretentious bigness.

It would be a pretty dead-end church which would have great place for a young Yankee of my youthfulness, but they must get busy. Did you get my draft last week?

I am ready to warrant that Everett would shortly be a new man if he would get the physical practice I take, under wholesome

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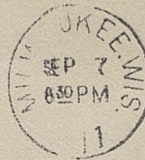
Milwaukee.

conditions. I have defeated the educational and religious directors in handball, and will make dates with others. That's a gleeful fact. Others, a number of roomers, have got to win best games of me, too. Talk about fun. Miles and Ray would enjoy the gym too, and profit by it. I could transform Miles and Everett by beating them in handball.
your loving son,
Ralph

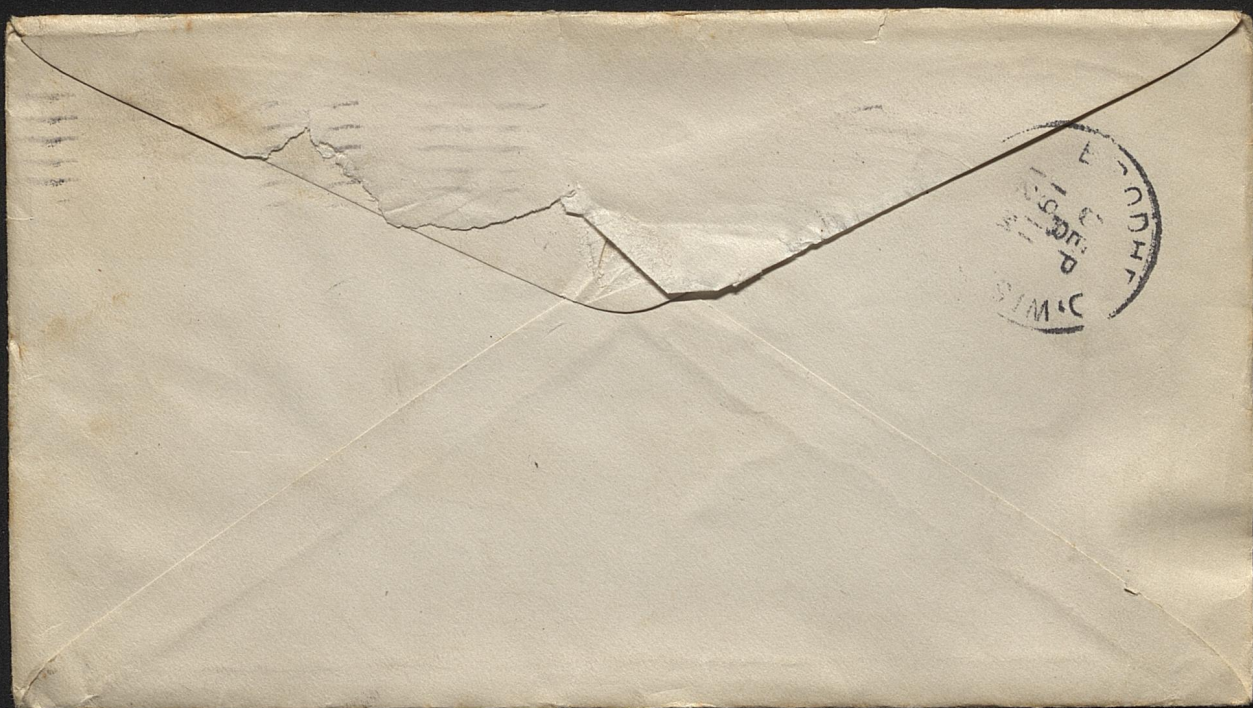
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Young Men's Christian Association

143 FOURTH STREET *RJR*
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Mrs. J. S. Boudin,
Brodhead,
Green Co.,
Wis.



The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee. Sept. 15, 1911.

Dear mother:-

my "off" afternoon is now Friday, instead of Thursday.

Wm. writes that he will not consider Palma, Ill.

I have been debating with myself whether or not to go to the state fair and see Lincoln Beachey, who holds the world's altitude record, fly, but I guess I will use my money otherwise. Beachey intends to beat his own record tomorrow.

The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee.

Last Sunday I played for the E. L. of the Y. A. M. E. church at their service at the county jail. Next Sunday for the second time I shall speak for the Pilgrim Cong. church at their service there. That will make my fourth jail service.

I am practically the regular pianist for the Epworth League of Y. A. M. E. now. Every Sunday evening my services are requested. Before long, however, our evening church appointments

The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee.

will take me away from there to places
all over the city.

I wish the mission committee knew
how to start work in Milwaukee.

As yet have not subscribed for the Hope,
bought "History unrolling Prophecy" or any of the
many things I would like. Must be conser-
vatively preservative.

Have not played any baseball this week.
My gym cloths are at the laundry. Next

The Young Men's
Christian Association

week I intend to ^{Milwaukee.} wallup the gang. My reputation is at stake here.

I have a number of letters due me. It is my practice to answer all communications the same week.

If anything exciting comes up, will let you know.

Your loyal son,

Ralph

Bondin Bros.

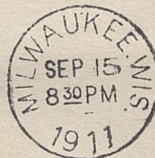
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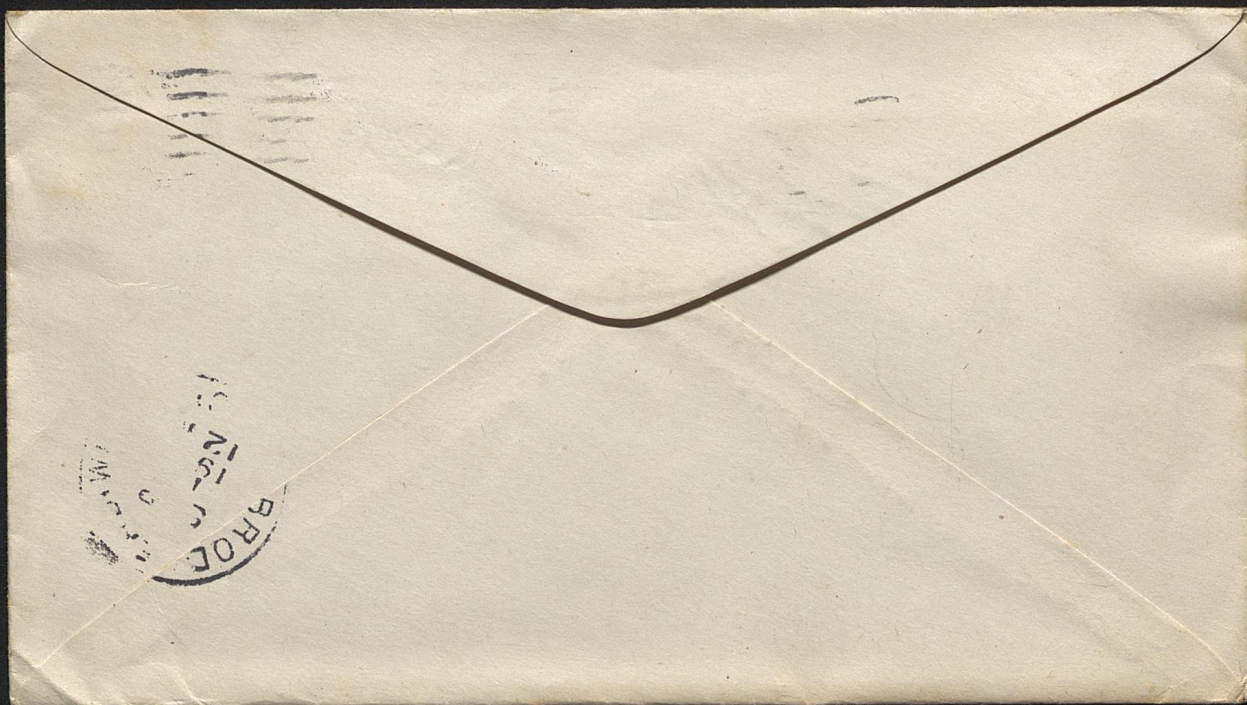
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MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

WLB



Mrs. J. S. Boulder,
Brookland,
Green Co.,
Wis.



The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee, Sept. 22, 1911.

Dear Mother:-

Loyal writes me that his mail address is McRae, Ga., (c/o Mr. J. F. Colwell), R #2. He has nothing to say in particular, except that he has done little writing of late.

I expect to join here soon without any letter. It seems to me that Bro. Arnold is wickedly perverse in his malik stubbornness.

The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee,

J. F. Whitman is reasonable in requesting church enlargements. Too many churches bury themselves in some rats' hole and suffocate there.

It pleases me greatly to hear of sister's better circumstances. She is deserving.

Train wrecks are a transit specialty in these last days.

Am going to play hard ball again this P.M.

The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee,

I wish I could get Ray or Everett going in a game of handball. Does Ray come home each week?

Ray will make solid material if he does not permit his impetuous rashness and roughness to injure himself.

Miles ought to stay on the farm awhile. You must be robustly vigorous and practically vigorous with such as he is.

The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee.

Sister is accurately correct. Our churches
consider ministers under thirty five new recruits
incapable of anything and ministers over
thirty five too aged and decrepit to live. Mean-
while most of the churches are either decaying
from dry rot or going to the devil from
wildfire. No man except a fool expects
to be carried on anybody's shoulders. A
ringing alarm needs to be sent out to

The Young Men's
Christian Association

warn the Protestant ^{Milwaukee.} church that unless it
gets more of the true spirit of Christ that
it will shortly be destroyed by the iniqui-
tous but successful systemization of the
Catholic church. Miles started out on pre-
cisely the path which sister would lay
for young ministers, and arrived at its early
and logical end in penury and poverty
irremedial. Evangelization is not possible with
the preacher who can't eat! Personally

The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee.

I feel the absolute need of preparation for
the ministry under conditions where a degree
of practical work is possible. Others who
are well prepared and consecrated are promptly
steam-rolled by our slow ecclesiastical
system and defied to "make good" and "prove
capable." This he can only do by confiscating
the authority of the church and righting affairs;
a course repulsive to most ministers. Our church
has shrunk because it would not expand!

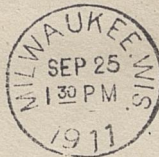
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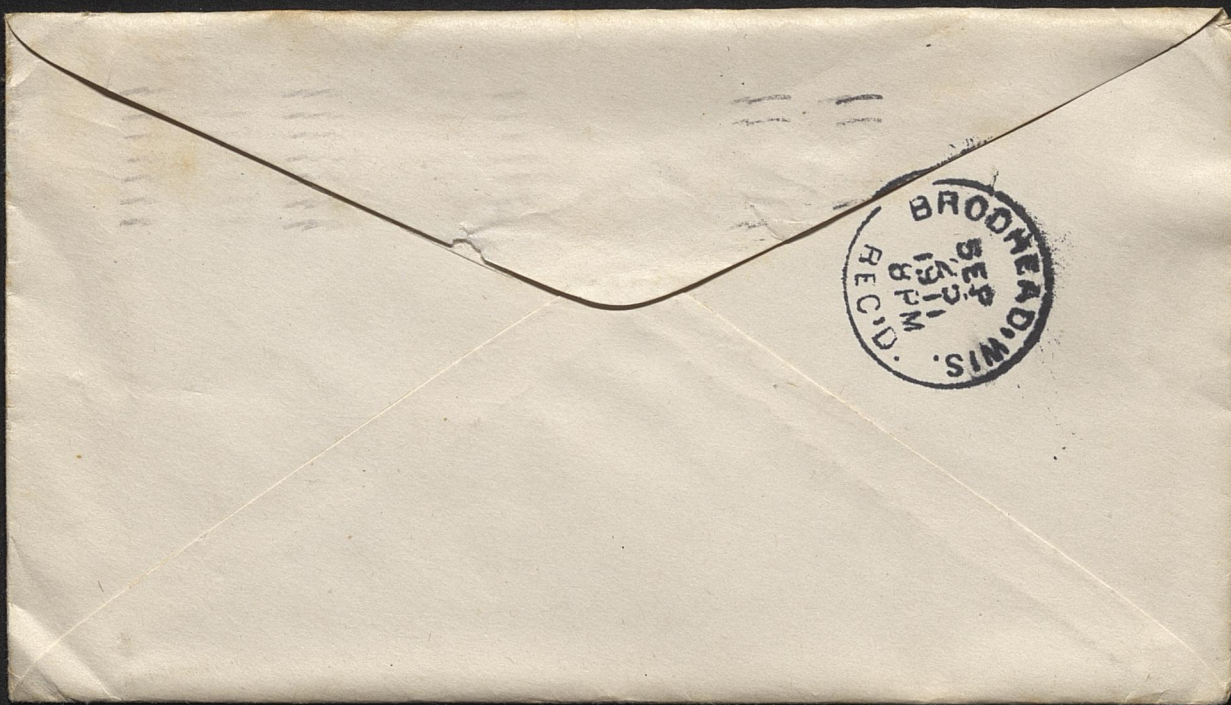
Last Sunday morning, as per schedule, I went with the Pilgrim Cong. C. E. society to the county jail, and led the service, i.e., did the talking. In the afternoon I went with a couple ymca friends to the Protestant Home for the aged, where I led, played, and presided. To one man I gave the service of prayer, to another the Scripture-reading. Sang three effective duets with my chum, Mr. Foster.

Your loving son,
Walton

In 5 Days return to *RRB*
Young Men's Christian Association
143 FOURTH STREET
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Mrs. J. S. Bouden,
Brodhead,
Green Co.,
Wis.



The Young Men's Christian Association

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R. L. CUSHING, RELIGIOUS WORK SECRETARY
I. G. MAXWELL, ASSISTANT PHYSICAL DIRECTOR

141-149 FOURTH STREET
TELEPHONE GRAND 2386

MILWAUKEE.

Sept. 29, 1911,
Dear Mother: - This is our latest letter-head,
of which we received 25 m. copies today.

Loyals address: - McRae, Ga., $\frac{1}{2}$ J. T. Col-
well, R. F. D. #2.

Sister's letters show increased satisfaction, in
spite of uncompanionable associates.

I cannot guess who the party from Oregon
can be. Who is it?

Loyals letter acknowledged the receipt of the
letters "forwarded from Nebraska".

The largest E. E. society in the city, located
at Emmanuel Prot. church, has requested me
to be their pianist this winter in the orchestra.

I was there on duty last Sunday evening. I have
succeeded in working in incidents in my
playing so much as to call some attention. I
join the game church Sun. A.M.

Your loving son, *Ralph*

SATURDAY NIGHT, SEPTEMBER 30th.

Saturday night is an open night and one of the ONLY nights in the YEAR when you can bring your girl. (Bring her sister, too; someone will assist you home).

FIFTH FLOOR (that's all).

This WONDERFUL evening will open by a selection from the melodious FIFTH floor quartet. This quartet has successfully appeared before several crowned heads (by SPECIAL command) and is noted throughout the universe.

Mr. John Sherman Potter (Mass.'08) will deliver his famous oration, "Casey at the Bat." (Copies of this oration may be purchased afterward from the gentlemen attendants, who will pass among you, for five dollars the copy. Copies specially illustrated by our STAFF artist, in pen and ink, 5¢ extra.)

Mr. Fred Smith will put on his wonderful singing and dancing specialty "Steamboat Bill" which has made him INTERNATIONALLY famous. This is Mr. Smith's positively last appearance in this country, on ANY stage. He WILL not respond to encore as the FINANCES of the COMMITTEE are strained.

We hope to be able to present (at LARGE expense) the DIXIE STRING QUARTET, composed of some of the leading college men of this country and EUROPE, (see advertisements in daily newspapers). This feature is ALONE worth the full price of admission. (Admission FREE).

The CROWNING and STUPENDOUS event will be a RELAY race, wherein the FIFTH floor will demonstrate to the denizens of the SEVENTH floor that they possess SOME of the athletic MARVELS of the AGE. This race is being put on at the special request of the MANAGEMENT, as the LIFE of Luxury being led on the seventh floor is assisting in its rapid PHYSICAL decline and THIS degeneration should be EXPOSED to the eyes of a STARTLED and curious world. Mr. Lewis Bolduc Montford (Mich.'09), one of the greatest COACHES of his time, will handle the ATHLETES of the FIFTH floor. Mr. Oscar Charles Ruley, (Park '09) will try to instill courage in the SINKING hearts of the seventh floor crowd.

The MANAGEMENT will present a PENNANT to the FIFTH floor for winning this race.

No practice running will be allowed during the week by the seventh floor, as the running track will be WHOLLY occupied EACH evening by the fellows of the FIFTH.

Men of both floors will be run by ROOM NUMBERS, 501 and 701 starting. Every man is expected to do his duty. The floor which has the fewest men present will have to run some of their fellows twice, but the OTHER floor COACH will pick the man to run the second time.

Services will take place in the Gym. Choir will sing the prelude at 9:00 o'clock. Congregation will take their place quietly not later than 8:45.

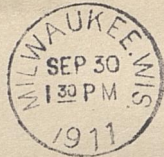
NO SPOONING allowed, except in lobby.

Every man on the FIFTH and SEVENTH floors must be pledged to attend. Committees will pass through the entire building at 7:45 o'clock and recalcitrants will be cited before the bar, if possible by methods of peace, but if NECESSARY, by FORCE of arms.

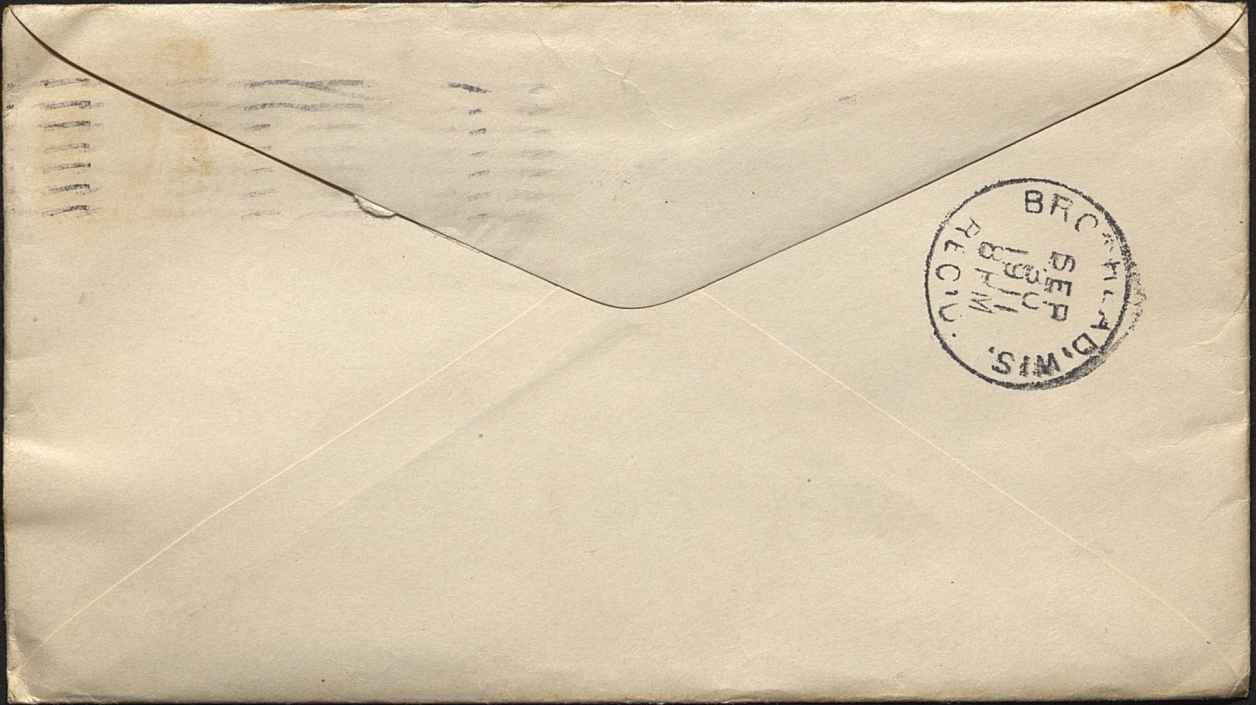
Don't forget your girl. She may FIND some ONE here she likes better than you and you will then have more time to devote to your studies in FUTURE.

BY ORDER OF COMMITTEE.

mil. ymca
P222



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,
Brodhead,
Green Co.,
Wis.



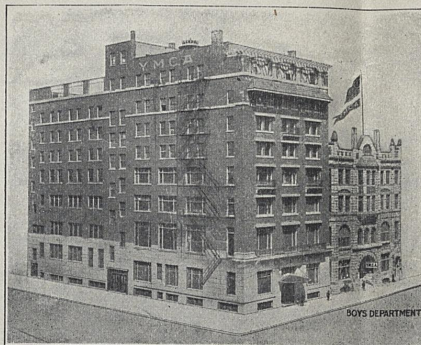
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141-149 FOURTH STREET
TELEPHONE GRAND 2386

MILWAUKEE, Oct. 6, 1911,

Dear Mother: - The Milwaukee Y.M.C.A. has
no pool, billiards, or boxing.
There is plenty of rain!

I am greatly concerned for the future of the
a. l. work. There is no need of sitting up or drows-
ing. I think the Lord is very near at hand. God's
prophetic word cannot lie. It is high time that
J. A. Smith and other idle preachers get busy.
Every day makes me feel stronger in my conviction
that the world's crisis is near. The Catholic
and the Mohammedan situations are sufficient
alone to warrant the gravest apprehension. I
do not care to be unready for that day when
the affairs of earth shall come to their focus
and climax. Concerning Miles' reciting upon minis-
terial work I am doubtful, though not positive.
He seems to me to be too impractical and visionary
to do successful work. For say there is a good prospect.

The Young Men's Christian Association

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MILWAUKEE.

Taking care of horses and things may be good work, and highly successful, too! If I were unable to do any better, I would get a job grooming somebody's horse!

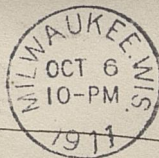
I spent several hours this P.M. practicing on the piano at the Immigrant Pro. C. E. society's assembly room. Am going to play more hardball this evening.

How long will it be before our people invade Milwaukee? Last Sunday A.M. I joined the Y.M.C.A. church. Next Sunday I go to jail again, and to the Immigrant church in the evening. Expect to practice on a pipe-organ soon.

Loveingly,

Ralph

In 5 Days return to
Young Men's Christian Association
143 FOURTH STREET
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Mrs. J. S. Bowden

Brodhead
Green County
Wis.



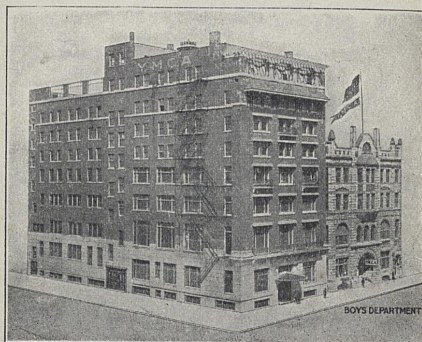
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MILWAUKEE, Oct. 13, 1911.

Dear Mother:-

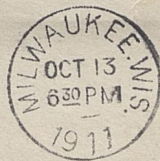
I saw and met Phil Hitchcock and his brother here this week, attending a national missionary meeting. Had many talks with Phil; he is still an adventist. Wants to be remembered, with Elvira, to yourself, grandmother and Aunt Lucy.

It seems very strange indeed that a people supposedly entrusted with the highest message of earth should fail along practically every line of their effort. The doctrines of Adventism are practical enough to sweep the land if properly propagated. That statement, I think, needs no qualification. Personally, I wonder whether a congregational form of government is either scriptural or sensible.

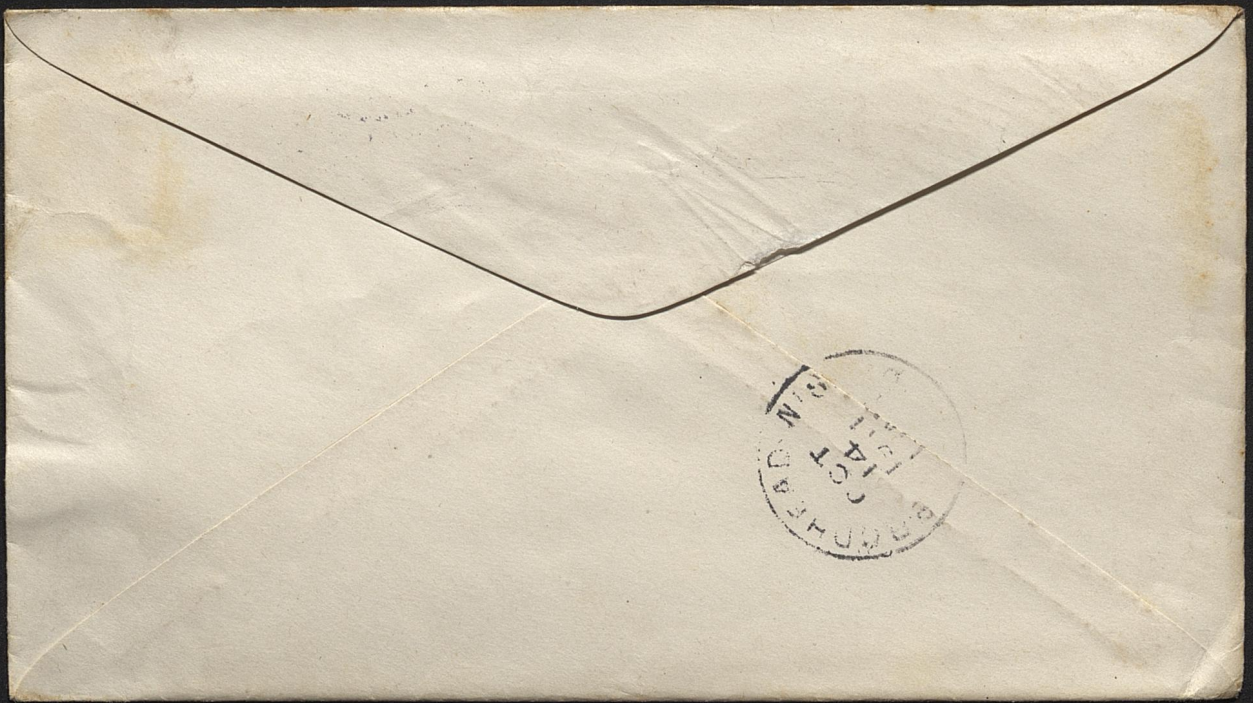
With love,

Ralph

• In 5 Days return to
Young Men's Christian Association
143 FOURTH STREET
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,
Brodhead,
Green Co.,
Wis.



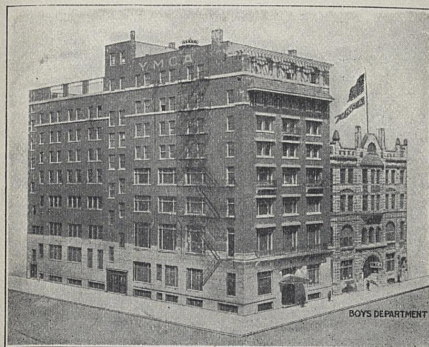
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141-149 FOURTH STREET
TELEPHONE GRAND 2386

MILWAUKEE, Oct. 20, 1911,

Dear Mother:- Heard from Sister, Miles,
and Ray this week. Ray seems to be full
busy with general and state communications.
Sister has an optimistic spirit this year. I
feel much the same as does Everett about Miles.
It must be a sad condition which can find
no better pastor for a church in a city as large
as is Minneapolis. Our city churches ought to
have men well educated and well-experienced
for pastoral service. The Lord does not do busi-
ness recklessly or ruthlessly. A city church is
almost always a tight and tough proposition,
and its successful superintending requires a man
dominated by a dauntless Christian spirit, not
swayed by emotions wild and erratic. I would
not oppose Miles or discourage him in the least,
but I am concerned for our people.
Yes, Abner is pretty stiff, also high
and mighty.

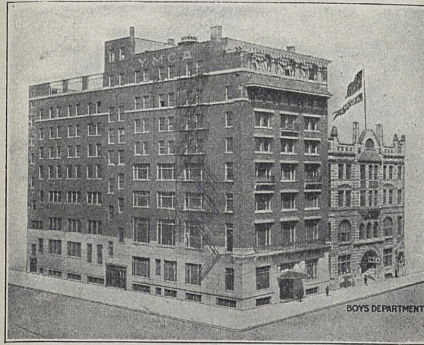
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141-149 FOURTH STREET
TELEPHONE GRAND 2386

MILWAUKEE.

Personally I should judge that money in the bank at interest is better almost any time than cash in circulation.

I have not seen Prof. Hardke this year. They said they would call on me, but have not; neither have I called on them.

Probably cannot attend conference. My vacation seasons are rare here.

Am scheduled to teach a preparatory, or rather, introductory Bible study class the next five months, but I fear the Bible study aspirations of Schetty city are not very high. There are four other Bible classes scheduled, but none are organized.

Your son,

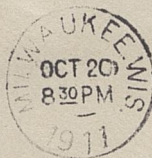
Ralph

In 5 Days return to

Young Men's Christian Association

143 FOURTH STREET

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,
Brodhead,
Green Co.,
Wis.



The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee, Nov. 4, 1911.

Dear mother: - You can not read till this morning. It is now shortly before midnight. My work during the last week has been exceedingly heavy, requiring the most rapid and speedy service. Am handling hundreds of dollars daily, and doing the work which such a business requires. My playing appointments in association, church, shop, etc., require considerable attention.

Ray, is, I believe, 21 years old today. Being so near, in age, to myself, the fact makes me serious. It may seem, at times, as though as br-

The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee,

thus, we were not very congenial, but, after all is said, I cannot but be glad that Ray has proven the sturdy, stocky individual which he is. It surprises me to recall in how varied and extended ways my brief life has been linked with his.

Have two piano engagements for services on the morrow. They keep me busy.

Heard from Sister, Mills, Bro. Arnold, and others this week.

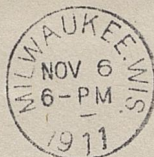
It is now 12.10 a.m., 10-5-11

Love

(RHB)

In 5 Days return to

Young Men's Christian Association
143 FOURTH STREET *RM2*
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,

Brodhead,

Green Co.,

Wis.

Sept. 20.



The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee,

Nov. 10, 1911,

Dear Mother: - Cannot possibly be done Thanksgiving. Love to all when you meet. Remember me there. Still think I may quit here anytime, if an opening for good evangelistic or pastoral work appears. More and more I am convinced here that no secretary can be in favor here without bowing to the general secretary, who, on account of 32 years in the general secretaryship, considers himself worshipful. I am too independent to worship anybody's conceit. My intense experience here has made me very

The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee.

antagonistic to such a spirit. If I take any step, it will be both deliberate and intelligent. Either the gen'l sec'y will have to right himself, or I will rebel. It is a question of right, to follow which cannot fail to incur the favor of God. I worry not I hate the thought of cringing before a bull-headed man like him, and will not.

When I want to take any young man with me for any particular work, I will pick out a brother. I know several of the best Christian young men in mil. in the most personal and friendly way, but have

The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee.

not found anybody more rigidly reliable than is
Ray, frigidly cold though he be, apparently. Everett
will come out all right through many temptations.
God knows him.

The 5000 assembled teachers in Milwaukee have
almost swamped the streets, but I have not seen
one I know. Cannot understand it.

Cordial letter from Bro. Arnold.

This afternoon from 2⁰⁰ to 7⁰⁰ P.M. I took
a 5 hour walk with a new friend, a member of
my Bible class. We sat down not once, but were

The Young Men's
Christian Association

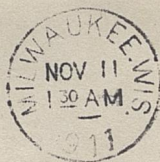
Milwaukee.

not always walking, although we covered 14 miles
of territory in city and country. He took a
couple Kodak snapshots of me with rural
surroundings.

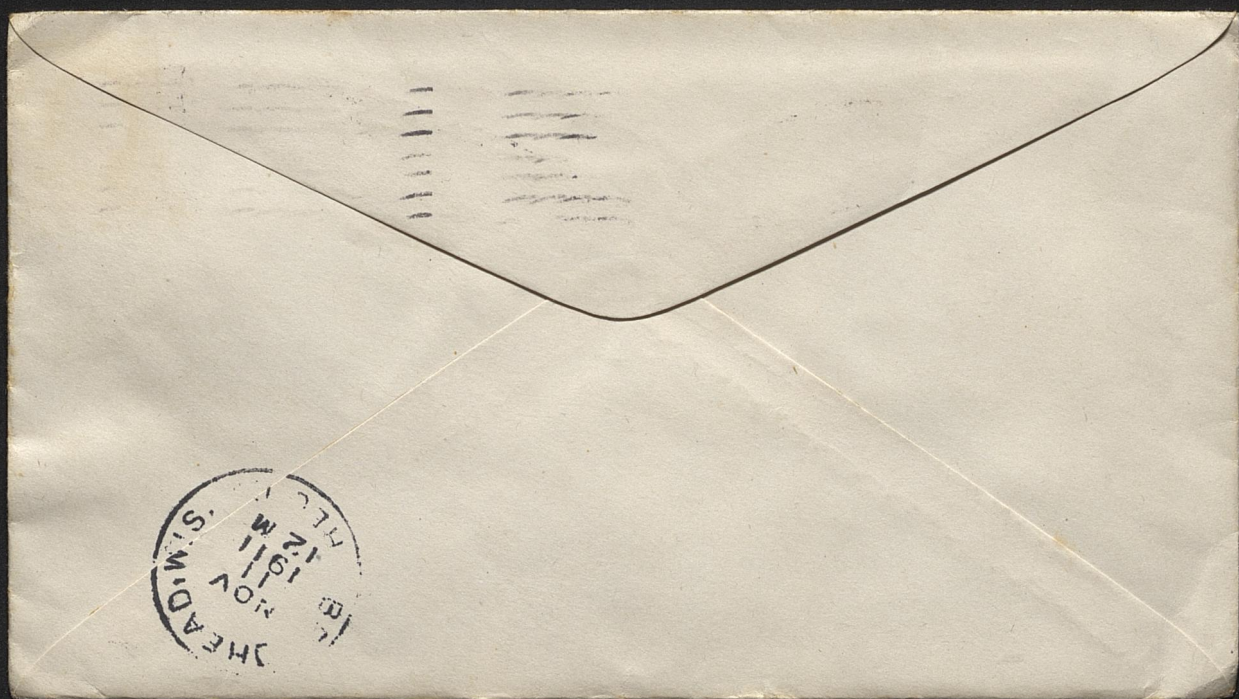
Your loving son,

Ralph.

In 5 Days return to
Young Men's Christian Association
143 FOURTH STREET
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,
Brookfield,
Green Co.,
Wis.



The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee, Nov. 17, 1911.

Dear Mother: - I read the full accounts of the storm in several Milwaukee papers. Milwaukee was plunged for a considerable time into pitch-blackness by the storm. Ray writes of the close range of the twists.

Saw no teachers in Milwaukee whom I knew except Misses Halfhead and Lathrop, whom I met on Grand Ave. on their way to the train Saturday P.M. Sister writes that she did not get the letter which I mail to her weekly, but I nevertheless sent it.

The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee.

The most frigid weather gives me great joy and delight. I am wearing, of necessity, an overcoat, military style, which, while thin and light, defies the wind and cold. Am wearing, and have for several months worn, a derby much preferable to cowboy style. I rejoice when the air is crisp and chill. My health is almost all the time superb. Just now the sky is black.

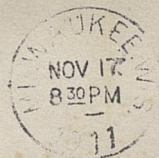
It seems that no pastor can live in a small town unless he is a single man; yet most churches prefer married preachers.

The Young Men's
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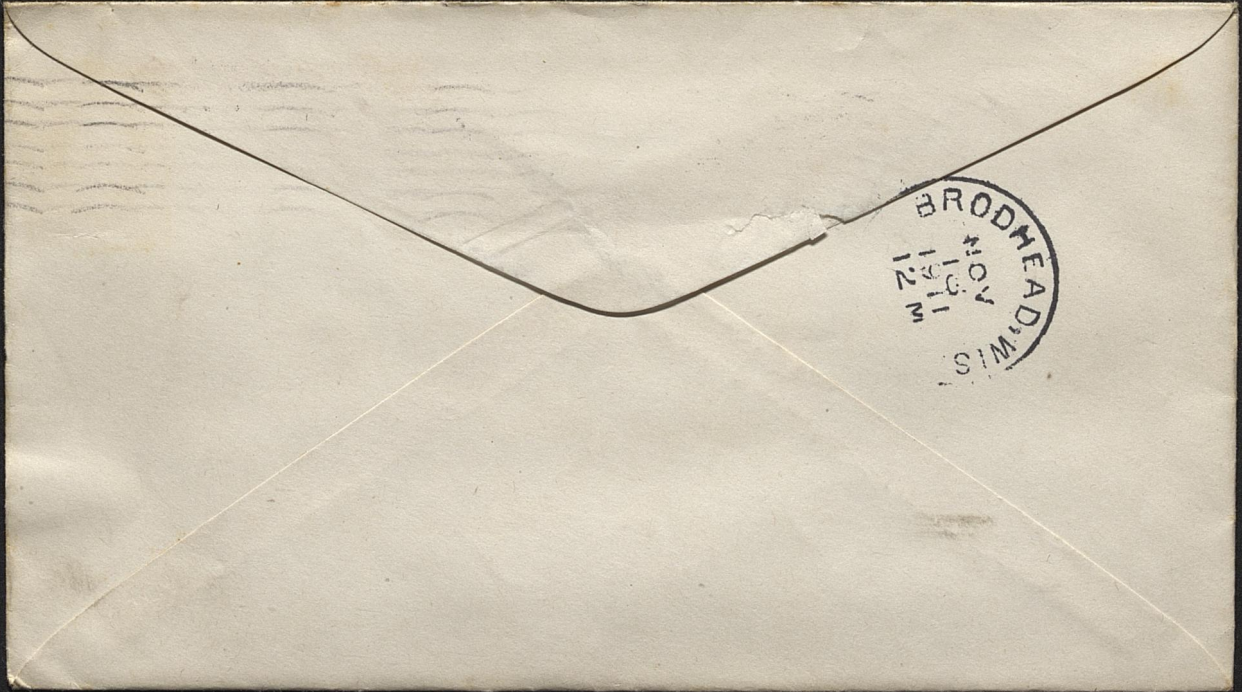
Milwaukee.

Received from Ray, in reply to a missive
which I wrote to him in the small hours
of the morning, relating to his majority, the
most directly frank and affectionate letter which
he ever addressed to any individual. Under
his rough and gruff exterior of brusqueness
is a foundation of solid, and perhaps stolid, sense,
which though occasionally abated by injudi-
cious merriment, nevertheless controls and maintains
an inner life of silent but serious thought.
In love, (Ralph)

In 5 Days return to
Young Men's Christian Association
143 FOURTH STREET
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,
Brookfield,
Green Co.,
Wis.



The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee. Nov. 24, 1911.

Dear Mother:- I am glad to hear that
Bro. William and family are more happily
fixed, or will be. Give them my heartiest
wishes when you see them.

Evening, I still think, would profit
immensely by Ymca calisthenics, though
I would recommend A. C. doctrine religiously.
Wish I had some of my brothers or sisters
or other superiors here to keep me company

The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee.

some of the time. However, I shall discover who is able to keep level, first. Sister is vastly the most even-minded individual in the whole family.

I wish I could get into regular ministerial work. At times it seems that I am not using my time altogether to the best advantage, yet I worry not, as all things work out for good. Things are better here just now. Glad I learned not to worry!

The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee.

Cannot do much studying here, but
accomplish much with my pen. Am
now writing a treatise on "The Risen
Christ." The dormitory men have it
that I am staying up till 3 and 4 a.m.
to write a treatise on the "Evils of Late
Hours." They also report that I am hanging
out nights in the vicinity of 7th. St. and
Wells St., (where stands Dreamland, a dan-

The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee.

ing hall), presumably in the interests
of the "Men and Religion Forward Move-
ment".

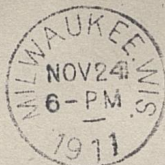
Yours in love,
(Ralph).

In 5 Days return to

Young Men's Christian Association

RFB 143 FOURTH STREET

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,
Brodhead,

Wis.

100



The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee, Dec. 1, 1911.

Dear Mother:- Received communications this week from (W(?) Wm., Sister, Grandma, Aunt Lu, and yourself. I suppose you know as much family news as I do. With the exception of me, I am further away from home than any.

It is of course, unfortunate that the contemplated domestic connection is forestalled in such a manner, but in this age we cannot expect to have our own wishes fulfilled while God's work requires execution.

Miles is getting considerable batchelor experience that may be useful in the future. I am afraid that I do little cooking, sewing, gardening, or shoveling.

The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee.

in Milwaukee. Do I need the experience?

I wish you and Sister had more opportunity to get exercise. Fresh air should be mixed with exercise. Have her playing handball this afternoon with a new kind of ball.

Sister writes me weekly now! How is that for regularity?

How does it happen that Ray is invited to Anna? Of all places — — !!!

Sundays of late I have spent much in this order: breakfast, psalm (at ymca or jail), walk, solicitation of church-goers, church, dinner, Bible study

The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee.

or writing, piano, afternoon meeting (playing or attending), string's Bible class (attending), fellowship lunch, Immanuel L. E. society (piano), church, YMCA (playing or writing or both), bed. What do you think of my Sunday program?

Grandmother seems to have a bright eye for the kingdom.

Your loving son,

(Ralph).

In 5 Days return to

Young Men's Christian Association

R7B 143 FOURTH STREET
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,
Brookfield,
Wis.



The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee, Dec. 7, 1911.

Dear Mother:— Enclosed note bank draft
for 20.⁰⁰.

The members of the Boudin family all
seem to be on the jump just now. Peace!
be still!

Lately my religious work has been
largely confined to playing. I have two such
regular appointments: one every Thurs. noon
at the M.W. con shop, playing mill, the other
at the C.E. meeting at Emmanuel, Sun. evening. Usual-
ly I play Sunday afternoon at the men's meeting.
Occasionally I have other shop engagements. This week

The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee.

I had also two engagements for a boy's conference.
Have to play at sundry other occasions, though
not as an official pianist. Once in a while
I am obliged to play at jail services.

It surprises me to hear that Everett attends
church regularly Sun. evening. Where? Does he
have anything to do at the M.E. church?

Our people must either live, or die. There
is no alternative. Let me know about conference.

Your loving son,
(Ralph).

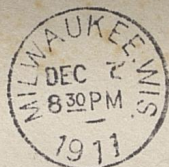
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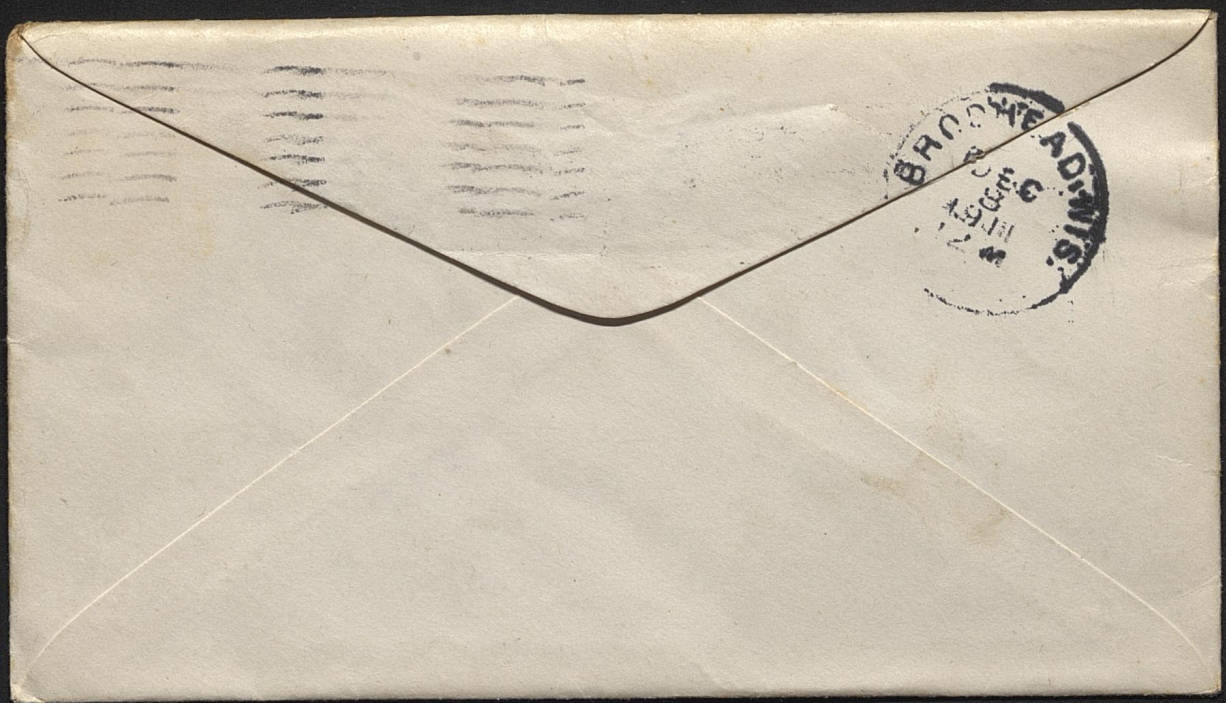
Q4A

145 FOURTH STREET

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,
Brookfield,
Wis.



The Young Men's
Christian Association

Milwaukee, Dec. 15, 1911.

Dear Mother:— Your letter has started me in deep thought.

It seems to me that it is wickedly shameful that a people knowing the value of the message of coming judgment have not disseminated that word to all the innermost and uttermost parts of the earth. Necessarily and naturally I am interested in the news that the conference was harmonious, but the matter which of all others absorbs my thought is the matter of advance toward the duty of service and determined publication of the truth of the coming Christ.

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If the condition of a few A. C. churches that remain in Wisconsin be superior to the state of things elsewhere, may God have mercy on the listless informed ones elsewhere who, knowing the holy scriptures, have so ill spread the gospel of Christ that the faith of the near judgment is bottled up in so small a compass as to disgrace those to whom belongs the duty of dissemination.

Whatever honor may be attached to the little office in question is infinitesimally trivial. Some day I hope to get hold of some of our back-

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ward, lifeless "officers" and shake them for their inactivity. Our ministers and leaders, if they chose, the small in number, could make this country in a few years to tremble before the knowledge of igneous retribution. It must be done! If it remains undone, I fear for the responsible ones.

The items of information sent interest me genuinely; they explain themselves. It saddens me to think that Chester Nock has so soon been lost. Otherwise it almost inflames me to think that our

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denominational work has been of late years so shiftlessly done that our people cannot be found where they ought to be, throughout the whole state. I do not think that there is any doctrine in the Bible more productive of inspiration and filled with attraction than is the doctrine that love divine shall soon find a full fruition in the return of Jesus.

Last Sunday evening I went with our bunch to an Evangelical church on the south

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side; with a dormitory friend I walked back the whole distance (4 miles) Sunday morning I took five young men to game with me. I am organizing a squad of game attendants for Sun. A.M. I now have about ten sure men for that squad. Sun. P.M. I played for the men's meeting; Sun evening I unwillingly missed my regular appointment at Emmanuel Pres. C. E. meeting. Tues. evenings I have a Bible class which ~~shows~~

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has eight members besides myself and is still growing. Thursday noon I played again at the shop meeting. This afternoon I beat a preacher in hand-ball; this evening I played with the 2nd. asst. phys. director, who uses a racket, at a banquet of gymnasium leaders. Sunday morning I intend to take a good bunch of fellows to church; in the afternoon I shall play either at the Y.M.C.A. or at Calvary Pres. Church, and in the evening

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at Immanuel Pres. Church, C. E. Society.
Such is the program beside my regular
work which is as fast as ever.

I can see little personal attraction either
in Lou Barringer or Lucy Hendricks.

In love, your devoted son,

Ralph.

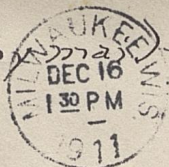
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MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Sent by



Mrs. J. S. Bowden,
Brookhead,

Wis.

Green Co.



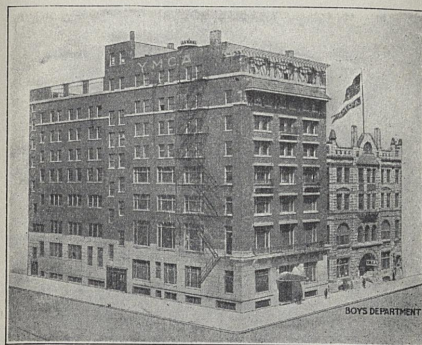
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MILWAUKEE, Dec. 22, 1911.

Dear Mother:- I do not see how I can possibly get home this winter, at least not until early spring. I have a street religious-service appointment with the young men of Immanuel Pres. L. E. Society for Christmas Eve.; my Christmas day is full; and I am agreed to play the piano for a New Year's men's mass meeting, at the Majestic Theatre, under the auspices of the Men and Religion Forward Movement. Do not expect me. I shall not come.

Ray thinks he will take no vacation, inasmuch as he has had so much. He also writes: "Would like to see you, as I sometimes feel quite lonely." What about it?

Am enclosing letter for sister, upon whom you will probably see today or tomorrow.

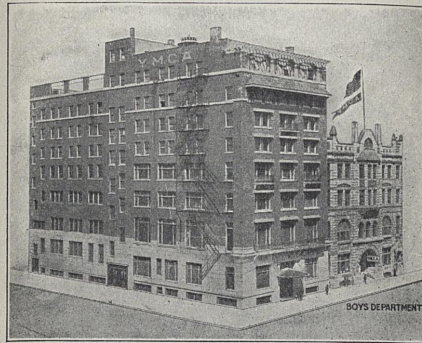
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Have just fought off an approach of the grip, which threatened me, for several days, with cold, chills, backache, indigestion, etc. I overcame it with hot water, hot soup, and oranges. Can you surpass that? I have no idea of getting sick if I can prevent it with hard ball and soup. See?

This week I played for two extra ship-meetings, but had to forego my regular engagement on account of chills. Monday night I led the meeting at the Peace Mission. Last Sunday I took my bunch to church at game, played for a boys' meeting at Calvary Pres. in the P.M., led the fellowship bunch at 5.30 in the cafeteria, and played at Immanuel C.E. at 6.30 P.M. The other night

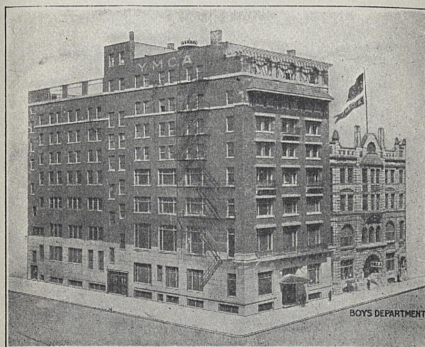
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MILWAUKEE.

I defeated the religious work secretary in
two straight games of hard-ball; scores:
21 - 20, 21-11 - both in my favor!!
Had a small Bible class Tuesday evening.
An Mirthful Christmas,
in love,

Ralph.

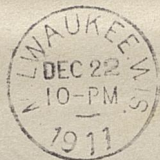
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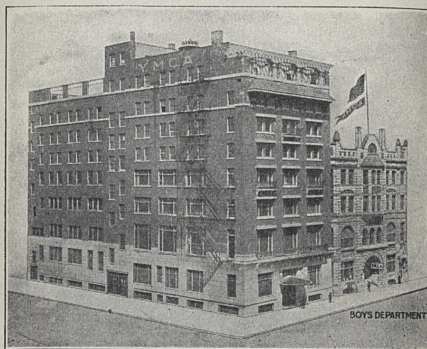
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MILWAUKEE, Dec. 29, 1911,

Dear Mother: - Happy New Year and many more, if the Lord carries. It can't be long.

Christian Science is a Satanic extortion from Buddhism grafted onto civilization. I don't believe any of it. It has no message for the honest man or woman.

Ray will take care of himself. I do not worry concerning Everett. Every individual is personally responsible, and must realize it first of all things. When a person has a free mind, you can't often talk him out of stubbornness into gentleness. Prayer is more powerful than petulance anything. At no time will results be accomplished by tearful fearfulness. Don't you forget this: no boy is going to forget the lessons of duty.

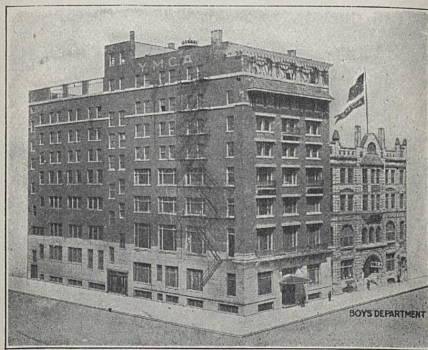
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learned in tender years. None can be erased from my memory the impressions created in infancy, even among turbulent conditions, by prayers, songs, and readings vibrant with truth and resonant with prophetic joy. Everett is old enough to be boldly treated as an individual capable of great things. There is no need of coaxing and entreating him, even if he acts like a grunting, squealing mule. I remember myself. Little more is necessary with such perverse talkers as he except a dose of vigorous experience with a wicked ~~wicked~~ ^{wild} - then returns a flood of recollections. This was different; once he was always so nice and right, even though impudent; now he is peevish. Everett wants responsibility only. None worthy.
Your devoted son, Ralph.

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