

Hopkinsville
January 5th.

My more than precious Boy:

Just two weeks and two days since you left and it seems ages' But I know that feeling will pass. I enclose a letter from Agnes along with other things and you will see that she says she saw (evidently in a Boston paper) where you would land in Liberia on the 7th which will be Sunday. That is something to tie to and all day Sunday I shall be thinking of you as ending your long journey and I trust starting in on the last lap of your way to your new home which again I wish to say I trust will be all you hope and expect to find and that the best of fortune will follow you- this is my earnest and ardent prayer for you, my beloved son and for Gladys too.

There is little of interest except in the letters enclosed which tell of what many of the family are doing. I also enclose a clipping from the Courier which tells something of Stannye Rodes debut ball which I thought you and Gladys might enjoy reading. If you will look on the other side you will get some idea of the weather conditions here- in Louisville the worst snow storm and blizzard in twenty years. I was all ready with my hat on to start back last Friday as I had had no success in renting the apartment and the sales put off another week so the buyers were all (tobacco I mean as the buyers seem my only chance of a tenant now). Pat had a letter from Anne saying there was fourteen inches of snow there so I decided to call Mary Thompson to be sure to meet me and she would not hear to my going up as she said the snow was then twenty inches deep and a snow storm in progress- had I gone I would have been completely housebound all the week so I am glad I stayed here as there has been much to do and when I am here I can always see that its good business to be here. I have spent one grand week here- the apartment is lovely- Mrs. Slaton (who is well acquainted with the apartment situation here) says hers is by far the best in town and this one is prettier than that so when the tobacco market opens or the weather permits people getting out to look for new places to live I trust I can get a tenant and go back to Louisville. The thermometer stood at zero this morning- the coldest day of the winter so far and a night snow which fell day before yesterday hasnt melted at all, of course. The blowers in the furnace went off a day or two ago and I was terribly worried for fear that meant not only discomfort to all in the house but a big expense as I was afraid the bearings- or worse still the motor had burned out so had one sleepless night accordingly- but there was no such trouble and the cost of getting it regulated as well as finding out how to regulate it as I had never known before cost \$1.00! The best dollar I ever spent! That was what Mary Thompson referred to in her letter.

Among the mail she sent me was a letter from Sam Finley which I was truly delighted to get. It was sweet and characteristic of you that your parting message was a request that I be told of what I could not and would not witness! When I wrote the last letter I had not gotten this letter from Sam but I was so glad to get it and to have that message from you - it seemed so much more personal than a telegram and went right to my heart- Not expecting to hear for such a long time I had steeled my heart against the hope and this message right from you was like your telephone calls when I was not expecting one. It made the days seem different and the time until I can hear less long. And then the word from Agnes also makes

me have some idea as to where you really are now.

There is not much news with us here- I ate supper with Pat last night and was never so surprised as when I found Alf dressed and down in the back sitting room and looking better than before he had the stroke. I had seen him the night before and knew he was much better- suddenly- but I was not prepared to see him dressed in a business suit and in his accustomed place down stairs. He walks badly and he does not talk quite quite naturally yet but otherwise one would never know he had had such an illness. I do so hope he will get over it all- some do but we didnt think he would ever be any better and he has not shown much real improvement until lately and it has been most rapid then. It looks like our young friend at the Puritan, young Dr. Grantham ("Everett" whom Mary Thompson referred to was right about its being a brain tumor and I trust it has been absorbed. The rest of her family are well and all always interested to hear anything from you and Gladys- just last night she asked if there were any chance of hearing from you any time soon and told me her I didnt think so- and then today two slight communications! I am going to spend tonight with her while Alfred goes hunting over the week end and will wait until she can read these letters before enclosing them to you. She is always interested in family affairs and since she has been so shut in is more so as she has not been out of the house since last July! Alfred still has no job but hopes to get one in a loose floor- Lucy Belle is quite absorbed with her own affairs with George Davidson. I dont think she cares a thing about him but there is no one else so I am afraid she will rush into this from sheer boredom as Pat has raised them to do nothing and both girls are unfitted for anything but a life of ease and George is the only chance for that it seems. Agnes is of course still in school but she too has a very devoted beau and will probably do the same thing. I see little of the Tandy family but its been too cold to see anybody and I have stayed here at home and they have been busy with the young generation. I see Jack and Josephine sometimes and they ask much about you and Gladys- they have been keeping my lovely radio for me but I decided to take it to Louisville- in fact have wanted to do so for some time and have been waiting to take it back in the car but the car does not seem to come any more as I come on the train and except for very short stays Mary Thompson does not come and as I wrote you she came on the train Christmas- so I gave up trying to find a ride for the radio and sent it up today by express. Thats almost the last thing that has to go and now we have many places to live. I understand the Johnsons are exceedingly well pleased in my apartment and as they are here only temporarily- that is perhaps until the girl, Dotty Lou, who is Caroline Winfree's age and her best friend, is through High School (she is a Freshman now) - they will never buy ~~and xxx~~ a home and in all probability

never rent one- I hope they are in mine for the next three years so having this lovely little place gives me a home again. There have been so many little things that had to be bought and repaired and straightened out that I have not yet been able to deposit the money for the shoes to Gladys credit- so many of these things had to be cash and had to be spent to keep up the high standard which until now has kept the house filled with excellent tenants. I am thankful Claude Roberts gave notice when he did and that I let him out as he still has no job- he is holding out for an executive's position and he isnt that caliber. He cannot manage his own affairs and has no executive ability so its a pity he will not accept the kind of work he can do. But thats not my business- I am thankful he left owing me nothing and feel I am well out of the business.

I had to stop at this point to come up here/ to spend the night with Pat and between us I cannot help wishing I were at home in that grand warmth for it not so hot here! My furnace is entirely adequate for even this zero weather- I send you a clipping from this afternoon's Era which foretells even colder weather for tonight! Being almost on the Equator I am sure you cannot even think what zero means- can you?

The girls have gone to the Country Club to a dance Dorothy and Jeff are giving a party- I also enclose another clipping which tells of that and some other things which may interest you.

Pat tells me that Martha Winfree has a beau up from New Orleans to see her. He is a young medical student and all the family think it is a serious affair. They went down to see Ed this afternoon so that marks it as such and Nellie says she has never seen Martha as much interested in any one as in this young man and he must be too to have come so far to see her.

Agnes letter mentions Johns going West but does not say he had gone to California but a letter to Pat said he would be going back there right after Christmas- his third trip out there in less than a year. It would not surprise me if he lands there yet as he said after his first trip to Los Angeles which he had long deferred, that he found the ~~best market~~ best market he had ever struck and has been going twice yearly ever since and now a third trip certainly looks like he has found a fertile field and ~~certainly~~ xxx one worth cultivating. Long ago he said the real shoe business was in the west but he meant St. Louis then and now he must find the real west quite the best territory he has struck and ~~xxx~~ as his big business has always been in Texas it looks as if he would concentrate on that part of the country and save himself those long swings.

This is the worst new typewriter I ever saw- or may be the trouble is with me! I have read what I have written and found it full of errors but I want to get it off tomorrow and will not re-write it even if it looks like some school boys examination paper.

Alf was down to supper again tonight looking as well as if he had never been sick but people are queer creatures. Pat has exercised the most excruciating care and has taken chances on offending Alf's friends in not letting them see him and now that he has improved she has swung to the other extreme and last night he saw several men and was very tired when the evening was over. He came down again this afternoon and she called several and asked them to come to see him- and there have been about eight or ten in most of them since supper all laughing and joking as if Alf had never been sick- it seems horribly risky to me and after they left he seemed so tired and still sat until ten o'clock when he has just gone up. Agnes has just come in and called Lucy Belle so home as Pat said Alf was getting so nervous- it was enough to tire a well person- not me for I left it all- and I am wondering if Pat has not let herself in for a bad night on account of all the company - Mr. Albritton, Wallace Hancock, the preacher- men Alf had not seen for six months- but I may be wrong and it may help him. I trust so anyhow.

I am going to stop now and let the house get quiet. You will soon be so you can write and I hope you will do so often. I will read ~~it~~ this again but I am going on and send it---maybe adding more in the morning.

Give Gladys much love from me and with a heart full for you and your own dear self in which all the family join me---

M. J. [unclear]

The PURITAN APARTMENTS LOUISVILLE



Wednesday- February 14th.

My precious Boy:

Its hardly worth taking your time to read as uninteresting letter as this one will ~~pr~~ove to be for there is absolutely nothing of real interest to tell you. I cant recall whether I have writtem since I got back from Hopkinsville- I went down to pay my taxes and see about some other things which couldnt be looked after while I was there Christmas or it seemed so then because of weather conditions among other things. I came back up here last Saturday as another blizzard seemed on the way- it didnt come but has now so I am housed as I have been most of the winter. I have never heard of as many broken bones and I do not dare risk walking around on the ice. A terrible snow fell last night and it stays on the ground- not a vestige of melting, so I am in again for the day.

But I must go back to Hopkinsville the last of the week and hope to get a ride back as ~~young~~ Mrs. Selden Trimble is here and probably driving so I am going to ask her out here and hope to go back with her. She and Mary Thompson are great friends and her mother was a friend of Anne's and there is much obligation to the Trimbles so I would be glad to ask her out whether I get the ride back or not. The reason I am going back is that that apartment which we furnished before Christmas is being occupied by a Burley tobacco buyer and the season will be closed tomorrow and Mr. Roberts gave notice when I was there and paid until the 16th and now Pat writes me that some one else has applied and I am going down to see about it- they are people who have come there with the new radio station and have come to stay but they have a child two years old and I dont want children but I may have to take them. I have had them and never had any complaints but I would so much rather have just a couple if I can get them. But I am going down to see the man as he is looking for me.

There is another couple I want to see also- the Roberts were good advertisers and Mrs. R. tried to rent it for me as she said she had never been more comfortable in her life. During all of that subzero weather - one night 17 below they said the house was perfectly comfortable and in many houses people just suffered. All of my tenants were loud in their praise so I am sure Mrs. Roberts had told him I would be back and they were giving it up ^{and} I am sure she recommended it as he said nothing about the price (as most people do)- but said he would see me as she told him I would be back the last of the week as that was what I had told her. So I am going down Friday.

I do so want to hear how you and Gladys are getting along and how you like it out there, or if you do. Of course there will be some unpleasant features but by being away you have certainly missed some here! So many people ask if I have heard from you and I am beginning to feel right hacked at telling them I have not as the time seems so long since you left.

I enclose a notice of Mr. Smith's death- he was the vice president of the bank and ^{Mary Thompson} ~~she~~ was his private secretary and his death may mean changes for her. One thing is sure- she will not be in the place she was when you were here as Mr. Dorsey, the other V.P. who thought he would inherit Mr. Smith's private office is being moved over to the other side with all the other minor officials and Mary Thompson goes with him. Mr. Smith's office will remain vacant for a while any how. Except in cold weather she liked it so much there as it was more quiet but of course she has no say and will have to go where she is put.

I sent you the papers about Nell Moore's escapade in getting married secretly. Pat's letter and also the New Era state that she and the new husband will be home today for a visit, and that Martha Winfree is planning a dinner party for them and Pat wants to do something if Alf is well enough. He does not get any better but he is well enough for them to do anything they want- the trouble is what it means to Pat. She keeps no nurse with him- he is just an invalid requiring much attention but no expert nursing, and Pat will not let any one help her do any thing for him nor for her in housekeeping which is a pity.

The PURITAN APARTMENTS LOUISVILLE



Did I write you about getting in touch with an amateur wireless operator? Charles Blakely suggested it to me and I wrote to Fort Knox but before I heard I found this young man. I called him and he said he had sent the message but had had no reply- I gave him my phone number and keep hoping to hear. The letter I wrote Fort Knox was handed to a young office- named Charles Howell- who answered as soon as he got it and suah a list of stations as he sent me! I am going to keep on trying until I find one as I imagine there are many much better equipped than the one who is now trying to get you. There are over two pages of names with the station number of each- never have I had a total stranger do as much on request as this young man. He said the Fort Knox station would be operating next summer and then he would be glad to get messages to you. Did I tell you that the new applicants for my apartment are with the radio station at home? Yes I see now that I did. The head man applied to me but I didn't have enough room for them as they wanted a special room for their baby. Alfred will find out just what position this Mr. Lamar occupies with them as he himself was an applicant for a job and seems to know the men in charge very well. I wish Alfred could and would get something to do. He is now with the Association but of course that job ends with the closing of the tobacco season.

Uncle Baylor and Helen and Stannye Rodes are going to Florida the last of the week. Since the weather has been so bad I rarely go out there but see him sometimes at his office- also Charles Blakely who works there and he never fails to ask about you and is so interested in the radio proposition.

Mary Thompson had a long letter from Margaret - she and Harry like Washington so much and she says Harry is doing splendidly. She also asked about you and Gladys and said she would be so glad when we heard how you were getting

along and how you liked the life out there. I shall be so glad when I can answer that question.

By the way I wrote you that Julia's Steve died- her niece came from St. Louis to be with her and she told Julia that she saw in a St. Louis paper the picture of a man from Hopkinsville who was going to Liberia to live! Julia told HER it was you and she seemed so surprised that it was any member of our family- I wonder if it was and where they got the picture. The article said "he and his wife" were going so as long as we have never heard of any other Hopkinsville man being sent there I wonder if it was you. Wish I had seen the paper.

My ribbon has gone to the bad so I will be forced to stop. Mary Thompson would join me in much love if she were here. She is working terribly hard, leaving here around eight o'clock and never getting home until six or after- long hours but one must expect that in working I guess.

Give Gladys my love and tell her I am looking for one of those nice letters from her- and with a heart full of love for your own dear self---

Richer

I have been sending you papers tight along- especially the funnies- I wonder if you have been getting them.? You must have thought I was crazy sending you a second Reader's Digest! I had bought one (January) and some one sent me one which turned out to be Uncle Baylor giving me the years subscription- and when I rolled up the papers Monday + thought I had the February Digest and didn't realize until too late that it was another January number. I will continue to send them to you if you want me to but its just as easy to mail them and less expensive than another subscription if its the same to you.

U.S. Plot Probers Widen Arms Hunt

**Caches Sought In Many Localities As
17 'Christian Front' Members
Held In \$50,000 Bail.**

New York, Jan. 15 (AP)—A plot to smash the Government of the United States and replace it with a dictatorship through bombings and assassinations was charged today against seventeen New York members of a "Christian Front."

J. Edgar Hoover, head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, implied, in announcing disruption of the alleged plot, that the seventeen now under arrest were merely the nucleus of a Nation-wide conspiracy.

"More arrests" were predicted by U. S. Attorney Harold M. Kennedy, who said F.B.I. agents were forced to act because a series of bombing outrages appeared imminent.

F.B.I. agents were searching in many localities for caches of arms such as the "small arsenal" they found in New York City in the course of a continuing six-

listed as members of the New York National Guard, one as a member of the naval reserve and another as belonging to the marine reserve.

One was described as a member of the German-American bund, whose Fuehrer, Fritz Kuhn, is in Sing Sing prison for stealing bund funds.

"The group depended," Hoover said, "upon terrorism and ultimate demoralization of communities to attain their objective. First of all they aimed at terrorization of Jews—all Jews. At the same time, according to their plans, they were



—(Associated Press Wirephotos.)

**John F. Cassidy. John Albert Viebrock Wm. G. Bishop.
Alleged Ringleaders In Conspiracy.**

month investigation of the alleged conspirators.

Arraigned before Federal Judge Grover Muscovitz in Brooklyn, the men pleaded innocent and were held in \$50,000 bail each for hearing February 5. One of the seventeen, Machlin Boettger, 32, was arraigned separately, pleaded innocent and also was held in \$50,000 bail.

The courtroom was filled with friends and relatives of the men. Several women wept as the prisoners were led away.

6-YEAR TERMS POSSIBLE.

The penalty could be six years in prison and a \$5,000 fine for each.

Among their tentative aims, Hoover said, was the assassina-

to seize communications, transportation systems, customs and post-offices."

NAZI-WISE SALUTE.

He said the leaders of the alleged conspiracy were John F. Cassidy, Brooklyn head of the "Christian Front," and William Gerald Bishop, leader of a "sports club," known as the "Country Gentlemen," secretly operated behind the front.

Cassidy, he said, was saluted Nazi-wise and addressed by the followers as "Fuehrer."

Hoover disclosed that much of the evidence against the alleged conspiracy was obtained with long-range cameras operated by F.B.I. agents from vantage points around the training camp of the organization at Narrowsburg, about 100 miles upstate in New York.

There, he said, the men are drilled in the use of arms and the making of bombs.

LAGUARDIA SCOFFS.

While the F.B.I. pursued the investigation with all seriousness, Mayor LaGuardia scoffed at the damage that might be wrought by the alleged revolutionaries.

"I don't think the United States Government is in much danger from guys like these," he said.

In Albany, Gov. Herbert H. Lehman said he would order an immediate investigation of any connection between the Christian Front and the personnel of the National Guard.

Sen. Gen. William N. Haskell

See today's editorial, "Seizure Plot Charges Viewed Calmly In U.S.A. But Joyously By Hitler."

tion of twelve Congressmen—identities not disclosed—as examples to all those who voted for repeal of the arms embargo.

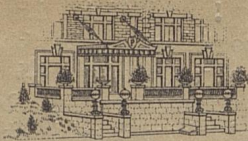
The day for striking against the Government, Hoover said, was to be soon after a final drill in bombing and firing which had been set for January 20—next Saturday.

While the store of "revolutionary" arms here was comparatively small, Hoover indicated many more guns and bombs might be found elsewhere.

JEWS HELD TARGET.

He said elaborate plans had been made for the theft of government for revolutionary National Guard arsenals. Five of those under

The PURITAN APARTMENTS LOUISVILLE



January 15th

My precious Bay:

From a letter received from Mr. Ashley you must have landed in Liberia just a week ago today- that is what his letter said that you and Gladys had landed safely in Liberia on January 8th. I have not allowed myself to think of hazards other than the ordinary dangers of the deep but I must say I was delighted to get the message and very thankful to Mr. Ashley for replying to what I know was a request from you. And so thankful that the journey is over and that you are once more safely on good old Terra Firma ~~once more~~.

Did I not write you that I had such a nice letter from Sam Finley telling me about seeing you and Gladys off? Knowing that you had sailed I felt that all communication was over until you would land and then for a long time until a letter could reach me but thanks to your request and Sam's granting it by writing such a satisfactory letter about your ~~actual~~ departure and then this letter from Mr. Ashley about your safe arrival I feel that almost I have been in touch with you right along. The journey took less than three weeks in the making and one week has gone by since you landed so in two weeks I shall begin to look for a letter telling as much about it all as you can. Soon I shall begin again to count the days!

As I wrote you I spent much time in Hopkinsville waiting to rent that apartment and ~~it~~ last was successful. I believe I told you that one of the Burley buyers- a big boss of all the buyers in his company (Moss Brothers of Horse Cave) had looked at it before Christmas but he had left just before I got there. Pat talked with him and he said he would not make any plans until his wife came and they would be back the 2nd of January. Then the opening of the market was postponed until the 8th and the Dark fired indefinitely- so there I was, with my hands tied so far as renting was concerned for I had advertised three times three days each and not one call that I would consider, but infinitely comfortable in that dear little apartment which as you know was our old living abode the bedroom being the one you used as a child and Mary Thompson later, the sitting room my old bedroom and the dinette and kitchen Dad's old bedroom so I felt keenly at home and enjoyed every minute I was there for your bedroom furniture and Gladys' together with your chairs and some of my own furniture, your rug and some small cheap ones I bought and some curtains made a lovely and most livable place. On Saturday night, January 6th, I was dressing to go to Pat's for the night (about 5:30) when some one knocked at the front door and when I looked down there stood a woman asking if there was an apartment there for rent. She was the wife of the Mr. Roberts who had applied to Pat while I was up here and besides saying he would make no arrangements until his wife got there he also said he would not pay that price for an apartment so I was prepared to have them turn it down but glad they had applied without any solicitation on my part. She asked if it were rented- said Mr. Roberts had lost the slip of paper on which he had my name and telephone number else he would have called me but he had remembered the location and had driven there right away and seeing a light ~~look~~ was afraid the apartment was rented! I assured them it was not- it was beautifully clean as I had had Mary and Louis get it all ready in case of an applicant as the time for the sales was right at hand and the first thing Mrs. Roberts said was to comment on the perfect cleanliness of it. She was the most tired looking person I ever saw having driven from Danville to Hopkinsville that

day taking all day to do it as the roads were one solid sheet of ice all the way to Bowling Green- and cold! We had little snow at home but for a week the temperature hovered around and below zero- I was completely housebound. She took one look around at that comfortable bed and the lovely pink wall paper and called Mr. Roberts from the car. For once I used my head then - ~~not~~ afterwards- and when asked when she could get possession in case he wanted it I said "right now - why do you want to unpack this cold night and pack again when you can bring your bags in now and stay here tonight"! And that is what they did. It was then about 5:30 and by 7:30 they were in possession with therent for a month paid. He still said it was more than he wanted to pay (only \$45 as I had had to drop to that) but when I told him I did not want to rush them in (but I did)- and suggested he look around he backed off and said they would stay. And so they did. All I had to do was to unmake the bed as she had brought her own bedding and she said she had brought along a flannel robe as she didnt know how cold a place she might have to take - you can see they were most anxious to stay right there but didnt want to pay what it was worth- but they did pay what I asked and said no more about it. I told her she might as well send that robe home as she would not use it there for all during that zero weather the house was perfectly delightful after I got the blower straightened out and that was before it was so cold. All of my tenants were bragging about the wonderful warmth of the house. I had to stay over Monday to get off a few last minute jobs like having a light put on the back porch where one should have been but was left off as many of the things Hershel Long did- and a lot of other small matters. Mrs. Roberts asked if I could get her maid for part time work so of course I suggested our faithful Mary and had her come to help me (presumably) and Mrs. Roberts liked her and hired her to come twice a week so I know all of our things will be well looked after as well as Mary being helped. I am indeed fortunate in having Mary and Louis for they are both faithful and watch my interests while I am away.

I enclose two letters from Agnes- there is some repetition but each has things the other does not contain so I am sending both and one from Pat which has not much in it but its a way for you to keep up with the doings of the family. The "Evelyn" she speaks of is Mrs. Alvan Clark- I wrote you that Alvan died, didnt I? A terrible death from cancer of the kidney supposed to have been brought on by a fall in a bath tub last summer. I am surprised that Evelyn is breaking up but I guess its the natural thing for her to do- pity the boys cant be reared in their own home for Mrs. Smith is a perfect matriarch and will no doubt be the boss of the whole family. Alvan was lovely in his home and they will certainly miss him.

Our Kentucky-Tennessee Light and Power Company of which Pat writes in regard to Kate Peyton is in quite bad repute now and the president has proven to be a real crook as well as his brother and the papers are full of it. I heard in Hopkville that Al Wettstein, the manager there had lost everything he had and had to give up his home on South Main and go back around to the little cottage on Canton Street- I cant say what the details are but when one considers what we have had to stand for years in gas and light rates any one would know there was crookedness somewhere. I tied into Wettstein before I left home not knowing anything about the mess Henry Fitch had gotten things into- but of course got nowhere. The bill for that gas later in the basement which doesn't thing but heat water is more than double what it was for the heating and my own cooking two years ago and in the meantime new meters have been installed! Of course somewhere or somehow those at the head got therake off and we pay. Ethel said that in Clarksville where the T.V.A. has bought the light company she never dreamed of such reductions in rates- they can use all the gas and electricity they want and it costs practically nothing. I believe they have done away with gas completely and use electricity for all purposes since it is so very cheap- its nothing for my bill even when I am away to be anywhere from \$9.00 a month to \$15 just for the blower in the cellar, my refrigerator (a Norge said to be the cheapest of all to operate) and the light in the down stairs and cellar when Louis is there- \$15 a month! Its highway robbery but what can one do? I hope they send that president to the penitentiary where he and all such crooks belong.

The PURITAN APARTMENTS LOUISVILLE



We are comfortably located here and for the first time in a long time I am feeling settled again. All of us being unsettled and moving and with my own plans about going to Uncle Baylor and also giving up my apartment have brought about a feeling of unrest but that is all in the past and so I am going to take life a little easier and more slowly and rest a bit before tackling the soliciting business again as I have done in the past. The many rides back and forth have been hard and now that its over I found a grand way to come up here- over the L & N coming by Evansville. Its a long trip taking eight hours but its grand on as good a train as the Pan American. I came that way because I didnt dare ride in a bus (remembering what you said) and anyhow with the roads a solid sheet of ice still it would have been insane and all of the way up the whole landscape was like fairy land- ice and snow everywhere- every bush, every tree- everything literal covered with ice and snow shining in the sun like myriads of crystals. A lovely and a most comfortable and safe trip but when I got there I was housed for days for the ice was six inches deep still and walking a deadly menace- so I stayed right in the house - until now! Just one day since I came back has been safe for walking.

Mary Thompson is beginning to look so well again and more like herself than at any time since she married. She is happy in her work, delighted at being back in the Puritan which is quite home for us, is falling back into her circle of old friends and has made new ones so I feel that we have much to be thankful for. I am glad that I will not have to be away from her so much now for its lonely for her with me away and even with a small apartment there is much to do and candidly I am beginning to feel the need of a real home and more quiet and there is nowhere I can get that more than right here in the Puritan. Mother used to say that it was the most quiet place she ever saw- she revelled in it and for comfort and convenience it cannot be excelled. I love it here and plan to spend many, many days right here during the days to come. Except for Pat and her family Hopkinsville means little to me any more and really I feel more at home here than there. And I know Mary Thompson does.

I saw Uncle Baylor for a few minutes yesterday- he always asks about you and Gladys and I will be glad when I can give him some real inside information about you and how you like your new surroundings. Anne asks about you often too, and so does Horace in his letters. He was so glad to see you and to meet Gladys and I was for him but sorry he took up so much of our time! He was asked to make a talk over the radio about the evolution of the golf ball (pity he and Gladys didnt get on the subject)- he would not do it but wrote an article which was given over the radio one day last week. I didnt hear it but read the article. You know Ripley once wrote him up for the number of games he had played- it seems he broke all sorts of records at one time- and his heart paid for it and is still paying! I didnt think much of the article but then I know nothing about golf balls and too Anne is a very bad reader so I ought not to judge.

I have been invited to go to hear the Cincinnati Symphony with a friend tomorrow night- a woman who is also an agent for the Equitable- I am glad to go. I am sure she has season tickets which are quite reasonable and which I never get because I am always away when the attractions come if I have tickets. And when one does not have them the price is so high so I am glad to have this chance to hear such a good orchestra- Louisville has become quite music conscious lately.

I could almost leave out the "also" in saying an Equitable agent also- I have never taken much interest except in Annuities- I mean so far as selling was concerned. Gradually the Equitable has cut off first one good contract and then another until now there is only one annuity I can sell and today's Courier Journal says the Government is considering putting them on (foreign countries have had them for years)-- and selling through the postal department at such a low rate that the insurance companies are sure to fight it- but fighting the government gets one nowhere and if the annuities are put on through the Post Office its good bye for me for the Equitable for its my last refuge gone. My contract was almost gone any how and this will finish it! I will have to stick to fire insurance which I like much better anyhow for every one is a prospect there and one does not have to beg people to take it. And I like the personelle of Booker & Kimnaird better than the present Equitable except my good friend Mr. Taylor who succeeded Mr. Powell- As for the office force I havent much time.

I brought the Hickman family a lot of smoked sausage and more rather sent it- and when they called to thank me asked about you and were glad to hear that you had arrived safely. Helen goes to a hospital this week for what I trust is a minor operation- a cyst tumor on her collar bone. I hope she will get along well and this will be the last as she has had quite a number of them in the last few years. Mary Thompson went to Stannys ball and said it was perfectly lovely as the paper I sent you indicated. Quite a big crowd so Mary T. didnt stay long as it was largely the young crowd - and such a crowd. For Helen's sake I am glad it over for I have never known such a wildly gay season with as many debutants and it must have been strenuous for Helen for Stanny was one of the most popular of them all. Our old friend, Mr. L.K. Wood has moved here and his daughter also made her debut- I dont hear much about that however. You may remember the daughter, Alberta, was one of the passengers of the ill fated Athenia but was rescued- she was more famous for that than for her debut- she was much too new here for that and as she was away at college had little time to go or to meet people- But Judge Wood seems to be riding high and making the best of what seems to be a very excellent opportunity. Some say to be governor- others- well never mind what the others say! Any how you have never seen any one as rich!

put up

The man is coming to ~~take down~~ the doors Mary Thompson had taken down between the living room and the kitchen so I must stop until another time. We had Gladys curtains there you will remember but they got so dirty I took them down and will have them cleaned- the Puritan is no place for white draperies! In the winter time- in the spring I will probably put them up again when all fires are out for we are surrounded with smoke.

Give Gladys much love for me- this letter should have been to her and the next one will be but with so many letters from the family I thought it should be addressed to you.

With a heart full of love in which Mary Thompson would join me if she were here and hoping to hear from you as soon as a ship can carry a message- and with every good wish for you both for the very best of everything in the coming year- and again with very much love--

Thatcher

Hopkinsville
March 3rd.

My precious Son:

Your letter which reached Louisville Feb. 28th and here the day after was a perfect delight to me- somehow it makes everything seem different actually hearing from you and knowing that you and Gladys are there and comfortable and happy. I am so glad about your getting one of the big houses- I know you will be much more comfortable and then there is bound to be a big kick in having one of the very best homes. For Gladys' sake and yours too I am glad that you have that satisfaction and having the position you have it seemed only fair that you should have one of the biggest and best homes. Your letter was written February 7th and as I have said reached Louisville on the 28th- just three weeks in coming while the post card you mailed from Freetown took six weeks to the day!

Gladys' nice, long letter came on the day after yours although it was written on January 25th so that gives you an idea as to the difference in time between the ships' mail and the air mail. I had so wanted to know where to get the sailing dates and will certainly get the New York Times and try to get letters on each ship. I did enjoy Gladys' letter so much - it was full of the things I wanted to know as was yours- I do hope both of you will write as often as you can. Tom Stalling wanted to put a part of your letter in the New Era and I let him do so. It will come out today and I will send you a copy along with some other papers when I get back to Louisville. I am sorry Gladys' letter had not come when I gave yours to Tom to read as there were items in hers I ~~can~~ would like to have given him also.

I have been down here for two weeks and they have been long ones! I came to try to rent this apartment and regret to say I have had no luck at all so finally put it in the hands of a real estate man- Noble Hall- as he has gone out of the drug business and seems to be doing a flourishing real estate business- he knows and goes with the crowd I would like to get as tenants so I hope he will have better luck than I have had. I had hoped Jabbie and Henry Abernathy would take it until July (when I have another possible permanent tenant) but they have decided to stay here next winter- at least Jabbie and the little girl will- and they want a larger and an unfurnished apartment so that let me out on both counts. I would have stayed here myself but Mary Thompson wanted Lucy Belle to make her a visit while I was here and so she went to Louisville for the week end of the 22nd. She was to come back Sunday but she made me promise I would stay with Pat as they do not like to leave her at home alone at night and with Lucy Belle away that confined Agnes so at night. So I promised Lucy Belle I would stay up there with Pat every night little thinking it would be for so long! On Sunday after she went on Wednesday she called Pat and asked if she might stay longer- her very devoted lover here, George Davidson, who to me is unspeakably common had nearly worried the child to death and he interferes with everything she wants to do that does not revolve around him. He called Lucy Belle and wanted to go up Sunday and get her and she told him not to but he paid no attention to her- got up at four o'clock Sunday morning and drove to Louisville and tried to make her come home with him- she was

furious with him. He came back without her but has marred her visit with his many calls and telegrams and letters- to me he is just unbearable and I can see no happiness ahead with such a brute. She planned to come home Wednesday and that morning called and said one of the boys she had met there wanted her to wait until Sunday so she was staying on if it suited me! Pat and Alf have always been so very cordial to me that I am more than glad to be able to return it in some small degree and besides I am just delighted at helping to get Lucy Belle out of touch with George Davidson for while as she has been right in the house with Pat all day every day since Alf was stricken and she needed to get away. But with all of that I was sorry to have to postpone my going back so long. I enclose a letter which came yesterday from Lucy Belle as I thought you and Gladys might like to read it- just a little more news from home. Lucy Belle is a dear and I am so glad for her and Mary Thompsn to have been together in what seems to have been such a happy visit as both needed a change of environment. The "Cholly" she refers to is a nice new friend Mary Thompsom has made- very lovely to look at and most attractive but being a lawyer not any too well established in business- but he has been exceedingly nice to Mary Thompson and I see Lucy Belle likes him a lot. I am going to drive up with the young man who is bringing her home- since the weather has been so bad I have preferred going on the train but today is like spring. My letter must have sounded unreal as you are in the midst of summer but we have never known such a winter. The electric bill was three times what it usually is for running the blower on the furnace- still think there is something ~~secrecy~~ about it but Mr. Wettstein came up this morning and said in many houses fires were kept going all night many nights and still all the pipes froze! All of the occupants say this house was delightful even when the thermometer stood 17 below zero so I guess I should consider myself lucky to get off with a big light bill and no freezing and no dissatisfaction among my tenants. Also I understand that in many new houses the wall paper is ruined by the extreme heat from the furnaces and mine was not hurt at all- so again I was lucky. Today is like April- first sunshine then showers so I guess winter is really broken at last.

I am glad Gladys has plenty of help. I would like to see her training them! My good(?) Louis walked out on me the other day to my great surprise. You know Mr. Slaton has charge in my absence and Louis has always seemed to resent that and his work was suffering as well as his disposition so when I said something- I have no idea what- he just quit right then and there and as Mr. Slaton took on the responsibility of getting another one I didn't worry and think all of us have profitted by the change. Louis was fine up to a certain point but he was always right and that is never a comfortable trait. He just got too right and I let him go with out a word of regret which I think was a big surprise to him. It may be the story of the new broom but the whole place looks lots better under the new management so I trust I have had no loss in changing.

Lucy Belle's letter mentions her father's condition- Alf is really no better and I do not think ever will be. He is more quiet and far easier to nurse but as for real improvement there is none. Pat has been wonderful in her care of him- will not turn loose to any body and her faithfulness shows in his continued improvement in a way- but its tragic to have the improvement. I enclose a clipping of a case almost like Alf- Walter Radford who dies recently. The article says he had been ill a year- its nearer ten! I often wonder if that is ahead of Pat.

There is really no news to write you. I sent you the papers about Nell Moore's marriage- thats the only thing that has happened lately. She and the new husband were here several days but left last week for Harlan. They plan to go to housekeeping there but at present are at High Splint- a coal mine in which he has an interest. I hope Nell did well financially- the boy is only twenty, a half finished education and no job and no decision as to one, so I hope he has some money put away somewhere!

Mary and Nell were deeply interested in reading your letters- they have asked about you both so many times- and no one has been more interested than your admirer, Mrs. Wilson. She is coming up to see me directly to read both letters. Its queer how much more important letters seem when we are so far away from each other- but both letters are so very interesting and tell so much I can hardly wait for others telling me more of the details of your life, your home and yourselves!

This is too uninteresting a letter to send any one- all the time I was in Louisville the walking was so hazardous that I stayed in doors and then when I came down here to better weather I went to church for the first time in weeks, sat right by Will Forbes who had a sniffing, sneezing cold which I promptly caught- then went to Pats at night and slept in a room as cold as ice after this nice warm room I had been sleeping in with the result that I have had a bad cold ever since I have been here- I was afraid of giving it to Pat and her household but she insisted on my staying there and none of them caught it- I am entirely over it now with no bad effects but between the weather and the cold I have spent a useless winter. I would not mention the cold except that Lucy Belle does- and the fact that is it entirely relieved. But being shut in so I have seen no one- things are always dull here and if anything of any interest has happened I have not heard it. I see Jack and Josephine rarely my chief contact with the latter being about the numerous telephone changes. She is still with the Telephone Company and a great help to me in installing and removing.

I want to take a bath so I am going to stop- I always add a post script so I will leave some space. I am going to Pat's for supper and so I want to bathe early. She is putting the boy friend in the girls' room so I will not want to use that bath- Alf's is never convenient of course and the one down stairs is too much trouble so I am glad to be here with my own private bath and plenty of hot water. I was glad Gladys wrote that you have two baths in your own house- and nice ones.

Give her much love for me and tell her I will write to her as soon as I get back to Louisville which I trust will be tomorrow afternoon.

With a heart full of love to your own dear self and assuring you that your letter just filled me with joy- and such a thrill seeing all of those foreign stamps - I fear air mail will prove a very expensive luxury!

Again with a heart full of love in which all of the family join me---both to yourself and Gladys--

Mother

I dont believe even your African rains are much worse than the one we are having- our climate is all upside down! I could not even get to Pats unless it holds up a lot- I can scarcely see Alvan Clark's house. Evelyn has moved to her mother's and I understand is going to sell the house. I am sure I wrote you that Alvan died- he left her nothing but debts!

I had a funny experience about my new janitor. Mr. Glaton hired him down town but did not ask where he lived. One reason I hated to lose Louis was the proximity of his residence being around on East 17th Street - I could always get him at a minutes notice. I asked Alonzo, the present incumbent where he lived today as I thought it was best to know and imagine my surprise when he said 408 East 17th Street! And Louis' mansion is 407- right across the street. Wasnt that funny? Do you suppose Louis will let him stay? But of all the negroes in Hopkinsville to pick one right across the street and to find him down town without any question as to residence.

The down pour continued- I didnt go to Pat's for supper for I hate going out in the rain just to eat. Mrs. Wilson came up and brought me some delicious cake and read your letters & she always says such nice things about you and she did tonight and read both your letters with great pleasure.

I havent seen Lucy Belle- she reports a wonderful time- I will go back with her friend Bob McIlwain tomorrow. I hope the visit broke George's strangle hold.

The PURITAN APARTMENTS LOUISVILLE



Tuesday, March 5th

My precious, precious Boy:

By all the laws of manners and gratitude this letter should be to Gladys for her nice, long descriptive letter came several days ago and I did appreciate it more than I can say and enjoyed it as much for it was a graphic description of your home life which means everything to me now.

But I am writing to you because I wrote from Hopkinsville- a very stupid letter I fear and not saying near all I wanted to say-but I am afraid the letter was not mailed. I took your advice and as soon as I got here I bought a New York Times and find there is a vessel sailing Thursday and for fear my letter will not get on it I am writing this to you to answer some of your questions. I had planned to drive up here with a boy who took Lucy Belle home after a visit with Mary Thompson but the young man decided Sunday morning that he would stay until night, spending the afternoon there- that meant a night drive up here and I was not willing to make it so I hurriedly decided to drive over to Clarksville and catch the Pan and came up on that. I had your letter with me and knowing I would miss the last Sunday mail here asked Agnes to mail it for me and urged her to do so that day. She promised she would but her very ardent lover had taken us over and I fear my letter was forgotten in the courtship. I should never have risked it to them as Pat's girls are both very heedless. What makes me uneasy is that there was a letter from Agnes (Flack) which Lucy Belle had carried back from here and failed to deliver to me- then Agnes forgot to bring it when she came for me and promised she would mail it Sunday along with yours and all of my light bills too- the letter from Agnes has never come so I doubt if any of them have entered Agnes' head since she took them and they are probably reposing in Pat's car or in Agnes' purse. So as I want you to be sure to have a letter on this ship- the ~~Ohio~~ which is sailing Thursday I am asking Gladys to forgive me for writing you again. The ship is the OTHO.

your letter reached here the 28th of February and was written the 7th- just three weeks - and the card written from Freetown took exactly six weeks in coming. Gladys' letter was written January 25th and got here two days after yours did, taking five weeks for hers to come. The air mail certainly is quicker but from the number of stamps it took for yours I fear you would rather both of us would write oftener and send them the longer route. Although I did get a tremendous thrill out of that foreign looking air mail. I want to write to you so you will have a letter on every boat and if you do not write as often you might occasionally indulge in the air mail letters.

Your letter was perfectly delightful. To me it was so personal that of course I read it only as a letter telling me about yourself, your home life and all that touches you- I read it over and over again. I told Tom Starling I had had it and he wanted to publish part of it as he said you had so many friends who would love to read it- I gave him the letter and when I read what he had written in the New Era- word for word your letter- I saw that I

had received something not only precious to me but most interesting and instructive. Not at all a personal sounding letter- just a grand description of what I hope will prove a grand experience for you- my beloved. If it had been written for publication it could not have been better written nor more interesting nor more cultured sounding so aside from being pleased and happy over the letter I was tremendously proud of you and what you are doing and your description of it. I had not seen the paper when I wrote- so if you do get the letter, which I doubt, please excuse the repetitions but I did want you to know as soon as possible how delighted I was over it all. So many people called me about it and said such nice things that I just had to tell you the first minute I could.

Gladys's letter from the inside point of view was just as interesting to me but yours was so much more general and so good that I am sending it back to you- in printed form- as I thought you might like to keep it. If you have not started a scrap book I hope you will do so and certainly you must use this first description of your surroundings written while they are new to you. When I looked over the New York Times this morning I could readily see why you selected that as the one news paper you want to take and reading it I see there is no use in my sending you the Sunday Courier Journal any more. I was surprised that the Times had no funny sheets- I will continue to send those as you requested and if I find anything of interest will include it but it must be terribly flat and small townish after reading the Times. I had forgotten how fine that is and will take it- the Sunday paper- as I can get it here in the Puritan each week. That is certainly the way to keep up with the mails.

I went to Hopkinsville to stay three days as Pat wrote there seemed an excellent applicant for the apartment to find when I got there that he had already rented another- but as he had two children I would not have rented it to him anyhow- I believe I wrote Gladys to that effect. I had no success at all in renting it. I have found that I can never rent one when it is occupied so I decided that might be one trouble as every one who sees it says it should rent right if it is so attractive and so comfortable- so I left it unoccupied and turned it over to Nobel Hall. He said he had a man coming around the first of the month that he thought would take it. The man had not come when I left and Mr. Hall may not be telling the truth- but I could not get any where and didn't see any use in staying any longer. I am so much more comfortable here where I do not have to go out to my meals. Pat's house is right cold and I caught a bad cold but have entirely gotten over that and want to get back to work as soon as possible. I did not go down town today as it is very bad out but plan to begin going nearly every day now that the terrible winter is over, the weather better and walking safe as it has not been this winter.

Last night Mary Thompson's old school mate, Betsy Lee Thomasson, of Georgetown and her husband, one Anson Burlingame whom she married about the time Mary Thompson married- came by to see us and they and her friend Charlie of whom I have told you went to the Brown for dinner and the Floor Show. Charlie is a nice beau and relieved many evenings which otherwise would be quite stupid for her. He is rather good looking, a graduate of University of Virginia and an erstwhile Princeton man so you see he has nice advantages and he shows it. He is new in Louisville and seems to prefer her to any of the Louisville girls- and she has enjoyed his friendship very much. Both of us enjoyed Betsy Lee so much- I wonder if you remember her? She and Edith Campbell from Middlesboro visited Mary Thompson one summer and Jack was so in love with her-- I guess you were not there but you may remember meeting her in Georgetown if not at home. She was so interested in reading your letter as it appears in the paper- asked much about you and what you are doing.

I had hoped to have Agnes' letter to send you- I can't understand why it was not sent on to me but not getting it makes me sure yours was not mailed either. I rarely give letters to any one and usually regret it when I do. It may turn up some day but it is too late to write about it and I will just have to let it wander in. I did not give any one Agnes' letter- it was here and Lucy Belle took it home and forgot to deliver it. Then Agnes was to have brought it to me and forgot

The PURITAN APARTMENTS LOUISVILLE



it- then she was to have mailed it Sunday and didn't so I probably will never get it and yours may go the same way--Agnes is very much in love with the boy she goes with (and he with her, evidently)- Lucy Belle is bored to death with the one she goes with- a big brute from Clarksville who works for Bass at home but he is crazy about her and allows no one else to look at her. I feel sorry for her for there are very few young men at home and this George Davidson will not let the few that are there have any dates with Lucy Belle. He is the kind of bully that wants to fight any one who makes any advances to her at all- and she plans to go anywhere he manages in some way to make her dissatisfied about going and she stays at home. He horned in on every nice thing she did at University of N.C.- and he does here at home. He wanted to come up and drive her back from here and she told him not to but thinking she was going back Sunday, after her telling him Saturday night not to come- he got in his car at four o'clock Sunday morning- and came up here and tried to get her to go back with him. She wouldn't go and he was furious but quite penitent- only because he saw he had made a mistake. I feel awfully sorry for her for as soon as she relents and lets him come back he will be again the big bully he is always when things don't go just as he wants them to. He is of very ordinary family and shows it- but being a nice beau they put up with it and candidly I fear for the consequences. He is persistent type that usually wins in the end by sheer persistence- but I fear it would not mean happiness for Lucy Belle as he hasn't the background to make any one happy. Please do not refer to this in your letters home if you should write any one. I saw my own child make such a mistake I should hate to see Lucy Belle do the same but people do not appreciate suggestions about their children- nor discussions- so I stay out of it in this case.

Mary Tandy got your address to send you an announcement of Nell's marriage. They all seem to like the boy she married and seem reconciled to the method. Aside from the fact that he is very young, just twenty, half educated and no job in sight he may have been a very good choice. But they are three right big obstacles. I hope you got the announcement.

I must stop and get this in the mail- its grand being here where we know exactly when letters go out and if I mail this now it will be in New York tomorrow morning- simply by xxxk going down stairs and dropping it in the box mail box in the lobby. I also want to get a part of the paper off to you on the same mail.

Please give Gladys much love for me- I like to think of her training her boys- I know she will do it well. Its too bad you had such a bad passage over- I thought of you much Christmas Day and wondered how you were spending the day but I am glad I didn't know you were in the midst of such a storm. I have always wanted to see a storm at sea but I imagine they are terrible at the time. I was glad Gladys told me about Shaky and hope he did not suffer any lasting ill from his trip. How does he like his new home? I imagine he gets a lot of fun out of his companions and out of his freedom to run- or does he have that?

If I dont hurry I will missthat boat-- just let me say again how delighted I was to get your letter and also with the reading of it-- how it makes me feel again that I know what you are doing and with the pictures I saw in Akron and your description I can visualize in a measure how you are situated. I loved both you letter and Gladys and somehow feel differently about it all sence I have heard that you are so comfortable and I trust so happy. I am sure you will like your work for you have always liked both designing and constructing and with the good foundation you laid for yourself in Glen Ferris I am sure you will do well and go far in this work. I will never get over missing the radio p/program Firestone put on telling all about it- and like an idiot I sat here last night again and didn't turn it on! Its just this minute occurred to me- Mary Thompson and her crowd had just left and I forgot it was Monday night!

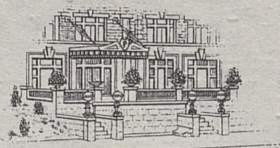
I have never gotten any where with the amateur radio connection- I dont think much of the operator and as I have a long list of others will try again. In the meantime if you can hear of a station any ~~where~~ near you let me know and some one here will contact them. Its sounds very simple-but as yet I havet found that it works. .

With a heart full of love and every good wish for continued comfort, happiness and success--Mary Thompson would join me if she were here- she did so enjoy your letter and Gladys'. But she has small time to write and little energy when night comes, but she likes her work and seems happy again and for that I am thankful

Again with fondest love to you both--

M. S. H.

The PURITAN APARTMENTS LOUISVILLE



March 23rd

My precious Boy:

In just a few minutes I will be leaving for Hopkinsville with the Elizabeths on one of my many trips home. Its nice having them to go with as it makes the trip shorter and certainly far less costly. I was there two weeks ago but have to go again to see about the interest on the bond on the house and keep that up- also to see if I can make arrangements to borrow some money to paint it this spring- @ I had hoped we could sell Mother's place and use some of that but so far we have had no luck. I do not want the surface of the house to suffer but I may wait another year before painting it.

I am writing this so if there is a ship going early next week it will go for there is really nothing of interest to tell you. I am so glad you suggested my getting the Times but for the last two weeks there has been no ship listed as going either way. My paper does not reach me until Monday morning and if a sailing is listed early in the week that is too late for me to get a letter off after finding the date so I am writing this on a chance of its getting off early next week. I plan to come back Sunday night but I never know when I go down just where I can do that or not.

I am writing now primarily to send you Arnes letter which came a day or two ago as I am sure you will be interested in it whether you know the pilots or not. Anyhow I know you like to hear from her and so I am sending you the letter. Also mailing you the Philadelphia Enquirer which has all the comic strips ~~xxx~~ so I am sending that instead of the collection I have been sending from time to time. As The N.Y. Times has no funnies I thought this would be the most pleasing way for you to get the best assortment- the man in the grocery downstairs recommended it and I thought it was just what you would want. You know I am not a good judge of funnies- they are all too sad ~~xxxx~~ to suit me but if one likes them they all seem to be in the Enquirer.

All week we have been looking for Lucy Belle to come up but company interfered with her plans- a note this morning says she will come back with the Elizabeths Sunday if there is room for her. I had already asked the girls and they said there would be so that's all fixed. Mary Thompson enjoyed Lucy Belle so much when she was here a few weeks ago - but now she will have to stay in Anne's room and I am afraid L.B. will not enjoy that so much but its the only way I can manage. I am sure I wrote Gladys that Anne was leaving last of last week for Florida with Rob and Edith Rutherford so Lucy Belle invited herself to occupy the room and that is what she will have to do. Anne will be gone two weeks longer coming back through the gardens of Mississippi and Louisiana. A lovely trip - Rob takes her some where every year paying all of her expenses.

Eugenia is here helping me today- I hate to leave things in disorder and hate to come back into it- I don't do that often as Mary Thompson is very careful about keeping things straight (when I am not here) -- but an apartment to live in has to be straight- you found that out in Akron- didn't you

Fat writes that Alf is about the same- I do not send her letters because they are all the same- "Alf the same- and house cleaning"! She has not been out of that house but once since the 20th of last July when Alf was stricken and then only for a few minutes to see Julia the day Steve died. Its foolish and its unnecessary, but no amount of persuasion can make her see it. The children hate it so for its deadly for them and naturally Fat knows nothing to talk about but themselves and what they do and want to do. I feel terribly sorry for her but she could make it easier if she would- I just fear she will wait too late to get help. Alf is apparently very well physically and enough mentally for her to leave him as much as she wants provided she has someone like Julia in charge- but its an obsession with Fat- she never treated her own family as she expects others to treat theirs- somehow they always seemed so important to her- so much more vital than other peoples to them' (So she thinks)- I do very little when I am there but the children beg me to come so I know it is an outlet for them.

I am glad Lucy Belle is coming for its one way to keep off that brute who is in love with her- no more than any ordinary man (though Fat excuses his unreasonableness on the excuse that every body says he is so much in love with Lucy Belle- I cant see that that is any excuse for a man making a mess of himself) A selfish love like that gets no one anywhere and I cant believe Lucy Belle would be happy with George- he is a big bully but he must be very weak and certainly whatever else he is he has the unfortunate trait of never being pleasant or trying to make Lucy Belle happy unless everything is going his way and thats a poor road to happiness for every body but George.

Tomorrow will be Easter- and its as cold as Christmas still- I wish you were near enough for me to send you some sort of greeting or at least to know when a where a greeting would reach you. Take the belated wish for I will be thinking of you tomorrow. It looks like we are all always separated on days that mean anything. Do you remember the day you told me it had been the "saddest Easter you ever spent"? I was giving Mary Thompson an egg hunt - you were sick and I thought you had outgrown the Easter celebrations- how little I knew- but after the hunt was over (Miss Maudie Morris really gave it at Mrs. Jesup's)- and it was too late to recoup that was what you handed me- " the saddest Easter I ever spent"-- I hope you can still say it was. (You were twelve then.)

The girls will be for me in a few minutes- its a grand day and we will enjoy the ride down. Elizabeth Stites is one of the best drivers I have ever seen- I cant say as much for Bean but they dont seem to have accidents and I always take out insurance so I dont feel afraid.

Mary Thompson joins me in much love- she just does not have time to write but she thinks of you and talks of you much and is deeply interested in all you do. She is doing well and seems happier than since before she married- she has dropped back among her old friends and really is contented and I am glad to say very well.

With a heart full of love and hoping the next ship will have a letter for me-- again with fondest love to you both--

Mother.

Love 2 Love - Enigma & Planning
My Queen - The Good
PURITAN APARTMENTS

Shore - all night.
LOUISVILLE



for Sunday
 Tuesday.

My beloved Son:

Seeing the name "Cathlamet" in the Times yesterday was like meetin a familiar face- the name figured so in our earlier discussions of your sailing. It has been weeks since any ship sailed so I know it must have been long since you had any mail from me. There is still none listed as coming in so I fear that means further delay in hearing from you- some day get extravagant and send me another air mail- that takes only three weeks to get here and a ship letter- well I hate to think how long they are in coming.

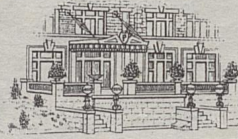
I have been sopleased ever since getting your letter and Gladys to know that you are both so satisfied in your new surroundings and I trust as the days go by you will continue to be even more so. Last night again I sat and let the Firestone program go by until after the talk- I do not care much for the usual programs and somehow I can't remember when any of them come on but had reserved Monday night in my mind. I mean the usual radio program. I love the Firestone for its one of the best and if I remember its Monday night always listen to Margaret Speaks and Richard Crooks- but my chief interest is the hope that the Liberia Plantations will be mentioned which they were once and I didn't hear it. But recently I have been doing my own cooking and Mary Thompson asked if she could ask a friend up- he was the young doctor living here in the Puritan who put her back on her feet when she so nearly went under in September as I told you (after her trip to Hopkinsville on Labor Day at a terrifically hot trip after a long hot summer with no vacation at all)- This doctor- one Dr. Grantham is a lovely young man, quite southern and very homey- wouldn't let me pay him anything for his services so having him up to meals is the one way I can get rid of the obligation. He wouldn't come if he thought that cut any figure but it does with me. I think he has forgotten he ever came except that Mary Thompson asks him sometimes about continuing the tonic which meant so much to her- but as a friend he is lovely and they are often together and the friendship most informal. Last night we ate in the kitchen as she and I always do as you know we are not prepared to spread a table in the dinette- that is much of a table. I had supper all ready when she called and the table set so we left it that way and I think the doctor enjoyed it more than if we had rearranged it and put it in the dinette. I really have learned to cook a comfortable meal and enjoy it and shall continue to do so until I get that apartment rented at home. I have had no success so far and there are so many on the market I really doubt if I can rent it at all. I am so glad as long as it is not rented that it is furnished and I do love to go down and open it up and stay there - I have never slept in a better bed- I just hope you have as good out there- and the independence of being again in my own home without asking anybody is grand. It's a luxury I wish I could continue but of course that would be absurd.

I came back with the two Elizabeths Sunday- at home we had a five inch snow- think of that for Easter- but we soon ran out of it and the drive up was grand. The weather here is still like winter time- absolutely not one spring day so far. The two girls and I have so much in common that our trips are always delightful and they ask so much about you and your work - they never seem to

Donna

Your letter read like a movie -
I hope you are enjoying the ex-
perience and I am so glad you are
having it - Bless you dear heart &
your best desire success and every
blessing of God abiding - And hope-
less - How happy I am for you -
You letter was written Jan 27th and
reached me March 21st - By
now you have received my letter
telling of the experience in
air mail - then wrote 3 more -
these letters for you - I will
be to write again - Now I and I
both will - I did you know find
a thing about an amateur radio
station - I have had no success
yet - Hope to do so - I'm glad
to see you glad to see about the
things for her -

The PURITAN APARTMENTS LOUISVILLE



tire of hearing about you. Its such a pity that ten years ago when they got the car they started that system of going home every other week end for it has absolutely cut them off from social connections here. Elizabeth Stites is one of the most attractive girls I ever knew- and beautiful to look at I cant see why some man hasnt fallen for her long ago. Mary Thompson's friend, Wendell Smock, the widower whose wife was a great friend of the two girls says there is no doubt their going home so often has interfered with any social life at all. Mary T. found that out early in her life here and soon stopped and I wish these girls had seen it. There is an attractive doctor here (another and older one) whom I want E. Stites to meet- I fear "Bean" hasnt much attraction for men- she never did have, did she? Wendell Smock tried to introduce her to a most attractive man who was divorced from his wife and she absolutely refused to meet him on that account so Wendell didnt try again. She didnt have to marry him and I didnt know any body's prejudice went so far these days as to refuse to meet a divorced person- but she did so Wendell didnt try any more- divorced or single. I fear she misse d a good trick there.

Sarah Ameila McKenzie was married the Saturday I was at home- had a lovely wedding marryi ng Frances May's first cousin- a nice boy from Richmond, Ky. I was glad I was there the day of the wedding. Mary Willis is in Switzerland having a grand time with the ambassador to roland who of course had to leave there and being very rich is spending the time - well anyhwre which happens now to be Switzerland or was during the skiing season.

Anne is in Florida- I enclose a card from her as I thought you would like to hear from her and Horace. There is no other family news - Alf continues about the same. I think he is just gradually going down- I rarely see him any more and I dont think any one does. Pat says he stays in bed part of the time and sits up when he wants to but he has assumed the air of an invalid and not a convalescent any more. we are expecting Lucy Belle up to occupy Anne's room in her absence- she was to have come Easter but some boys from University of N.C. came and so she couldnot come. I was not sorry for that a time when so many college boys and girls come home there is too much doing for a stranger to get in and she had such a good time before I would have hated for this visit to be the failure I was afraid it would be Easter. She may come most any time and she may not come- thats my real guesss that she will not come. I made it plain she would have to stay in Anne's room for the suggestion of the visit came from Pat- not from me- and I cannot leave my apartment and go to another especially when I would have to come back here every morning to cook breakfast. Its a rush for us to get off when I go down town and when I dont I have to have my own apartment- not some one else's room so I told Pat that and I told Lucy Belle and that may make a change in her plans. Had I given the invitation I would not have felt free to tell her she would have to stay in Anne's room- I have never got over your paying for your room when you were here but you and Gladys could not have been comfortable in here and you saw how up side down it would all have been so as long as Pat suggested this trip I am letting it go just as she suggested. I had Lucy Belle for ten days and stayed down home so she could stay and frankly I think that is enough.

I have not been out to Uncle Baylors since he and Helen got back from Florida- but he says they had a wonderful time. In fact between doing the cooking and my own work I don't have much time for visiting and since you and Gladys and Mary Thompson are so opposed to my driving my car I don't have much chance to go anywhere. Not that I want to for I don't- and really when I see how hard it is not to have an accident I believe you are all right about my not driving- I love to drive out in the open but with the traffic as heavy as it is I am afraid I would be a menace on the streets. Mary T. says its often all she can do to avoid collisions and when I see the recklessness on the roads I am glad I am not driving then!

This is a very uninteresting letter but I did want to get a last word off to you on the last ship sailing. The mail will leave in a few minutes so I am rushing to get this in airmail so it will be sure to reach New York in time. Its grand having a mail box in the lobby but it often rushes me as it is this morning when I know when the mail will be taken up. I stayed at home to chat with you, to wish you good morning and to say how much I love you, how often I think of you and Gladys in your new surroundings and hope and pray for your happiness and health and success-

Write when you can dearie- Africa is a long way off and ships go slowly so don't let too much time go by even if the letters have to lie somewhere. Don't wait for ships for they may catch you unaware and get away without that letter I so yearn for- and once in a while an air mail- don't forget that.

Mary Thompson joins me in much love - she got so much pleasure in telling the Elizabeths about this being your furniture- pointing out each piece and telling them with particular interest about the book cases- finding you made them seemed most interesting to both of them and - think they admired them more than anything in the room. We have certainly enjoyed them as well as all of the other furniture and when I hear people talking about storing furniture and always end by saying "of course that ruins it"- I am so glad we have yours here in a safe place. And I hope you and Gladys feel that way about it.

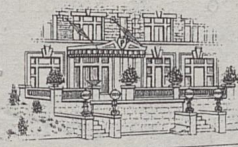
My postman will leave me if I don't hurry. Give Gladys much love from me- I think of her so often and wonder what she is doing during the day. Your own life perhaps isn't so far different, except for the climate, from Glen Ferris but hers is and I do so want to hear more about it. I think so often of the happy days we had together in Akron- its the first time she and I have ever been together really except for the hours she was off work and of course tired- but we did have those two nice weeks together in Akron and I shall always be glad we did.

With a heart full of love and best wishes of all kinds for success, happiness and health----

Mother

Your largest, dearest letter
I've just come - found when
I come down to mail it - I'm
come from as I started to drop
this in the box.

The PURITAN APARTMENTS LOUISVILLE



Saturday- March 30th

My precious Boy:

Your delightful letter was one grand surprise. As I wrote you the N.Y. Times reported the Cathlamet leaving on Thursday so I tried to get you a letter off in time to catch the mail going on it. We do not get the Times until Monday morning and as I had to go down town didn't get my paper until late Monday afternoon and so I waited until Tuesday to write and knew by sending it airmail it would ~~reach~~ reach N. Y. in time. I failed to catch the postman when he came ~~her~~ but had left the letter open to send any mail that might have come from any of the family and I was overjoyed when the girl at the desk handed me the two letters as I had already gotten the early morning mail and as the Times had no notice of any ship from Africa having landed I had decided I would have to wait another week before hearing- so you can see why I was so surprised and so happy over getting both your letter and Gladys'. I tried to get one to her off in time for the Cathlamet but don't know if I succeeded. The letter she wrote on the 17th of February (yours was written on the 27th)- evidently came on the West Hamhaw but did not reach me for two days after the ones which your friend brought and evidently mailed from Philadelphia as soon as he landed. That's a grand way to send mail when you can arrange to do so.

Your description of the last days of your voyage was most interesting but it goes to show that no ocean voyages are safe now. I am truly ~~like~~ thankful I didn't know any of this at the time and more than thankful that it's all in the past. I wish you could have gotten off at Dakar-but in times of war I imagine most of the picturesque was blotted out or at least concealed. Maybe you can still go by there sometime--I know the first impression of Africa must have been thrilling and something you will never forget, even if you did have to take it from a distance and in small doses as at Freetown. Your whole letter reads like a story and part of it seems incredible- seeing the injured "Renown" and yet not having heard of the cause of the injury- we know nothing of concealing facts over here and I wonder how other nations do it. It's a good thing they can especially in times of war. You had not told me of seeing the Tuscaloosa- that was most interesting.

And about the exhibit at the World's Fair- I have no hope of going but if by any chance I should get there I shall be looking for it for that would be to me the most interesting exhibit there- and remembering what you said about the trees coming from where you were working would make them seem almost alive if I should have the good fortune to see them here. And the hundred boys- ~~you make it all sound like~~ it all sound like a wonderful story of adventure- which it really is. A glorious adventure I trust it will prove for you. I, too, hope I will get to the Fair to see it.

I am so glad you like the climate- you used to have almost as much trouble writing on hot nights in Glen Ferris- and you are fortunate to have escaped the winter we have had- and are still having for the last week has been the worst yet in New York- I sent you a paper showing the terrible snow storms up there- the worst on record and almost the last week in March.

Yesterday was the first real spring day we have had - today again is cold and rainy- I never saw such a winter and spring.

I am glad you are furnished with a comfortable desk- that means so much in writing. That's one thing I haven't - I sent a little table home which I want to bring back some time as I really have not a comfortable place to write at all- but I shall not let that keep me from writing for one can type anywhere (if they can type at all)-- what did you do about a typewriter? You were debating in Akron and as neither of you use one I wondered if you decided against taking one with you. You had so much to take I would not wonder at any thing you left behind and in spite of all the advice you got there seems to have been much that was erroneous- clothes for instance. It's too bad that Gladys parted with the clothes she seems to need now and unfortunately all of them have been altered or passed on and also altered so there is no one back with them.

When I wrote to her I had not gotten her letter asking me to get the things for her - that was the one that came later though written ten days sooner. I love to think of you looking at her in another room- or anywhere for that matter. I love for you to tell me just what both of you are doing. You both mentioned the drums- somehow one does not think of them as real-- only a picture show stunt-queer that they should be figuring in your life!

Mary Thompson has gone to the Brown Hotel with her friend Charlie- didn't I tell you about Charlie? He has proven such a nice friend- good looking, quite a gentleman and the kind of man every body seems to like, particularly men. They have gone with Willard and Jacqueline (Johnson) to dinner and of course a floor show. It is most gratifying the way Willard has treated Mary Thompson- taking her side entirely and showing her attentions in every way. Did I tell you he tried to get you and Gladys while you were here- wanted us to go to the Country Club with him- tried both here and at Uncle Baylor's. Jack and her mother spent the day with me one day last week and Jack says she has not written any of them one line since the troublemaker (Helen) left her house two years ago and she never expects to. She says they are absolutely through with them all except Dibs' mother who is Willard's step mother but she raised him and she loves her very dearly- but does not visit her nor have her with him. They tried that once and it didn't work so to keep peace in the family they stay apart. The firebrand does all the talking and apparently all the visiting- when she can. But she seems to have fixed herself now and I trust she has. Mary Thompson is trying to let the past keep out of her mind- she seems happy and well- and is making friends as I told you. She had to go to an oculist today as her eyes have been troubling her a lot lately- she has to use them all the time and they show the strain. He said she needed glasses badly- she had them but they didn't fit her as they were made years ago- so I hope that too will help her. Even though it is Saturday she had to go back to the bank and work until 7:30 before going to the Brown- I am afraid she will be too tired to enjoy the dinner but the last day of the month she always has to go back. But she never complains.

I enclose a letter from Pat which came today. We have been looking for Lucy Belle for two weeks- I doubt if she comes and really I hope she will wait until Anne gets back if she does come as the original invitation was from Anne. She will be back Friday of this week- I enclose a card from her too- she certainly has had a grand trip and is most fortunate to have such a good relative as Rob has proven to be.

The blanket Gladys asked me to send is in Hopkinsville- that is what Pat referred to- I asked her to have Mary get it and have Mr. Watson send it to me. Mary Thompson and I will go down the first minute we can and get the things Gladys wants. We had meant to go today but Saturday is one awful day to try to shop and the rain just kept me at home- I wanted Mary Thompson along but she had to go to the oculist and then she could not see so we will have to go the first of the week. I wrote to Mr. Watson hoping he would say send everything to him and he might take it along as baggage. You will remember that was discussed when we were in Akron.

The PURITAN APARTMENTS LOUISVILLE



Pat mentions a possible prospect for the apartment. As I wrote you I have put it in Noble mail hands- whether he is any good or not I can't tell. If these people do not take it I think I will go down again next week and with the Elizabeths and stay a week or two getting the entire place in order. I like to have the wall paper cleaned but will wait for that until the furnace is not needed- but there are many things that may be attended to and somehow my being there seems to be some satisfaction to all in the house. The Johnson lease expires in June and I would like to get that settled as soon as possible. The young girl in the family, whom both Mr. and Mrs. Johnson adore, loves the place and I believe she will make them keep it. Being an intimate friend of Caroline Winfree's and being exactly where any one would want to be situated is ideal for her. New comers don't always hit it right on the location and they have not until they got into our house so I can't help believing they will stay. Mr. Claton says he intends staying as long as he is in Hopkinsville and Mrs. Wilson has said many times that it suits her perfectly so I trust I am safe with these three- but that other one- I do wish I could rent it. I adore staying in it myself but I can't hold it there vacant for just an occasional visit to gratify myself but as long as it is vacant I like to go down as often as I can. Going with those girls is perfect- for with the trains off the connection is so hard and the trip so tiring- and then too I can go at such a small cost I can go often and stay on the short time they stay- going Friday afternoon and coming back Sunday night.

I haven't seen Uncle Baylor nor any of his family since they got back from Florida- well I did see him for a few minutes at his office. If the weather permits we want to drive out there tomorrow- he always asks about you and I want to take your first letter for him to see - he would be so interested in it.

I am sorry your work was held up so long- you lost over five weeks which was too bad and I trust it does not rush you too much- also trust you beat "Time and the River", and get out before the rains start. You should read "The Rains Came"- by Bromfield- if you haven't already done so. I thought of the picture when you wrote of the terrific rains you had had already- it would prepare you for the real rainy season and what to expect.

I am writing in this nice quiet- I don't like to write at night- certainly not after a busy day but this has not been a busy one- and the opportunity seemed perfect for a chat with you. I had hoped I could forget work for a while and I fear I have become a little demoralized but when the weather permits I want to get back into the stride- anyhow until I get that apartment occupied. But at best I write poorly at night- but tomorrow we will be sure to sleep late and after church I want to go to see Uncle Baylor as Sunday is my only chance as long as all of you so violently oppose my driving the car- so I wanted to get a letter off on the only mail we have on Sunday.

Tell Gladys I will write to her as soon as I can find any of the things she wants. I feel that my letters are to you both so it does not matter much to whom they are addressed. I am so glad she has parties to go to-

and base ball! Do you like base ball? I used to love it and always said I would go if I ever had a chance and all the time we have lived here we have lived almost within walking distance of the ball park and I havent been once. we do nothave the big league teams here but its good baseball and I know lots of people who go but some how I just never have been. we went some last summer with poor Alf. he was quite a fan and Agnesis too and when she was here we used to go with Alf and I found I liked it as much as I used to- but there isnt quite the kick out of night playing as there is in the daytime and all of the games at home were at night and I believe they are here too. Go, even if you dont like it- cultivate it for its our great national game you know and really lots of fun.

Give Gladys much love and with a heart full for your own dear self in which Mary Thompson would join if she were here--

Mother

I have in other letters answered your questions as to the length of time it takes for letters to come- air mail three weeks - letters by boat from five to six weeks.

Tell Gladys I will be glad to pass along what magazines I have. I am sorry you take the Reader's Digest- I told you I would send it to you but before I could get to it some one sent it to me. I found Uncle Baylor had ordered it for me so I have been passing it along to you which of course I will not continue to do as you have subscribed for it.

The dental work Pat refers to was some old roots of a tooth Dr. Barker pulled at least twenty years ago. I did not know they were in there until they gave me some trouble and an Xray showed what it was. we have an excellent exodontist here and he took them out but had to give me gas and when I told him I was planning to go to Hopkinsville he said go on- and assured me there was no danger at all. I am sure there was none but I think I would have been more comfortable had I waited a few days to have the roots taken out. I am all right now and glad they are out for Dr. Williams said sinus trouble was sure to follow if they stayed in and the wonder was I had not had it long ago. It was the condition of the sinus that hurried him in not taking the roots right out.

Hopkinsville, April 15th

My precious Boy:

Letters have had to be so erratic as to mailing that I have no idea of the sequence in which you will receive them.

This morning I have Pat's typewriter so I will use the opportunity to write to you although there is little to tell and I trust you have long since received the air mail I sent you. A rare indulgence but after the Post Office made that silly blunder and held up my letter to Gladys the idea was put into my mind so I indulged myself in that air mail to you. I was afraid the letter to Gladys had missed the ship which probably sailed last Thursday and having her letter go on that day was the only chance to catch that boat. Later when I wanted information about the through air mail I talked with the man who made the mistake and who sent her letter air mail to Paris and found it was my old Equitable enemy, John Lawson. He euchered me out of so much insurance with his trickery that I am ashamed to say I really got a kick out of calling his hand and showing him up before the whole P.O. force (although that was not my intention)- and also I didn't mind letting him pay for that air mail stamp to Paris. You have never seen such a change of front in your life! I went to the Post Office myself so there would be no mistake and when I called for the man I had talked with he was presented! I am wondering which letter got there first- yours sent all the way from here ~~xxxxxx~~ by air mail and Gladys' sent by ship to Paris and from there by air mail.

This is the first spring day we have had- April 15th. Saturday and yesterday cold as winter time and Saturday snow but today is gorgeous and feels as if Spring had really come. I am about through with all the work about the place and I am glad for tomorrow the couple Mr. Hall brought up will be here and I do so hope they will take this apartment. It's ready for them to move right in and Mr. Hall seems to think they will take it. There are many vacant but none like this and if these people want a nice apartment this is their only chance and as Mr. Hall has them in tow and I doubt if he has another apartment I can't help being optimistic about it. I am losing another tenant for a month- The Johnsons have a lease until June 7th and as Mr. Johnson will be in the extreme eastern part of Tennessee all summer they were about to leave trusting to get their apartment back in September. They stood a much better chance of that than I had of renting it - they are ideal tenants and probably here for three years more at least. I wanted my own apartment back for July if I could rent this one so before Mr. J. got away yesterday I made this proposition to them- that they lease it from ~~July 1st to the year xxxx~~ ~~August 1st to the year xxxx~~ from August leaving it vacant for my use all of July. I could see she didn't want to pay for a vacant apartment all summer and be at the expense of being with him near Kingsport all summer. He said he would be sent farther away about July 15th and didn't want to have that arrangement so he suggested that she stay here until June 15th and come back July 15th- which suited me fine. If these people do not take it tomorrow there is still hope some one else will and I could not stand to be without any place except the ~~louis~~ Puritan for the hot summer weather- there is always much to do and I can see its excellent for all parties concerned for me to be here some and so, while its an expensive luxury, in order to be sure of the Johnsons all the next year, beginning July 15th, and to guarantee myself a place here for a part of the summer I entered into this arrangement

which I trust meets with your approval. It was the best I could do and I did want to get it settled before I got away. I hope to leave Friday - all that is left to be done is the work in the kitchen (Mrs. Platon's) which that slippery Hugo Hisgen promised to do for me today and has not come. He has taken the paper off the walls and is now ready to put on the sizing- then two coats of paint(he says one but I am afraid of that. He said he could finish by Wednesday and then the linoleum which I am sure is needed to save the floors from ruin. Father used to say one expense calls for ~~another~~ and now Mrs. Johnspn wants a linoleum! If I had stayed in there I would not have had one as my work was so light but they cook all the meals in there and she keeps a servant and the floor is being just ruined so I believe it is economy in the end to have that floor covered. That makes all of them covered and its what should have been done at first but I had to cut as many corners as I could and that seemed one way to save. It was a poor way but I could see no point in having lovely floors covered and it suits me better to have it done now- one at a time- than in the beginning having all four kitchens fixed. Where I acted an ~~idiot~~ was letting Herschel Long talk me into papering them- he saved and I lost but I don't feel that way about the linoleums.

I am mailing Gladys some magazines today- and I will try to assemble the clothing for her as soon as I get back to Louisville. As I explain to her and to you I just could not get to it before I left there. I never heard a word from Mr. Watson so I am glad I didn't send the things on to him as she suggested in her first letter.

I enclose a clipping about the man who is to succeed Dr. Gaines at Bethel College. His leaving is a great loss but he has been so feeble that he really should have done so long ago. What I can't understand is why smart men hang on until the cause they represent suffers so. Alf did that and put the bank to no end of embarrassment and killed himself, practically, by doing so and I fear Dr. Gaines has done the same thing. ~~This~~ man, Patterson, was one of two recommended by your old teacher, Dr. Hill- or did he leave Georgetown before you went there? I remember he was one of the reasons I wanted you to go there to college and he left soon afterwards and has been in educational ~~work~~ work ever since and he recommended Dr. Patterson highly- said he knew only two and ~~his~~ is one of them. He lives in Nashville now and has some high place on the Sunday School board of Education. So he ought to know educators especially along religious lines.

I also enclose a letter from Mary Thompson. There is a little in it but it gives a glimpse into her life. She is well and doing well, I hope. Charlie stays right on the job- he is lovely and very, very nice to her. I am glad she had such a nice rest over the week end- they are not always that quiet but she must have some social life- for every reason and not the least of which is to make her forget the past. She is taking your advice and putting it behind her but if she had to spend all her leisure alone she could not do that.

I will be glad to get back to my papers - I feel so lost without the Times and I hate not sending you the Philadelphia Enquirer- Mary Thompson knows nothing of wrapping and mailing them so I didn't ask her to send them thinking I would not be here so long. The Mrs. Stone she refers to is our next door neighbor- she flips the kitchen light off and all all hours of the day and night and it makes the most uncanny click. She has been gone all winter and between her light and her radio

I cant help being sorry she has returned.

I didnt bring a radio down here and I do miss it- I have my grand one up there and the christmas we were with Uncle Baylor I gave Mary T. a tiny portable which she enjoyed so much until I took my own to Lou. I would have brought it with me but the Elizabeths were going to be crowded and asked me to bring along as little luggage as possible. Mrs. Johnson leaves her door open so I get advantage of hers but I am sorry I didnt bring the little one along-I particularly want it tomorrow night to listen to the Firestone program- they are lovely but sometimes they make me a little wistful for the representative. But I am afraid not to listen for fear they will put on another about the project out there. I wish they would.

Since Mrs. Johnson
Alf continues about the same. I never see him nor does any one else. Pat guards him very jealous y from all confusion and from any one seeing him and he seems to have no desire to see any one. Mr. Trimble continues to come every night and when I am there asks me all sorts of questions I cant answer- often wonder if he believes me when I tell him I never see Alf. If Alf has any mind left I do not know- I often wonder if thats why Pat never lets me see him. I am afraid Mr. Trimble resents not seeing him- and I am sure he is trying to keep his finger tight on the pulse of the situation. You know he and Alf and Mr. Jim Anderson had an agreement that they would do nothing that was not unanimous with the three (they own controlling stock in the bank)- Mr. Anderson has been very ill in a hospital in Baltimore having had a serious operation and that put the burden of all of the responsibility on Mr. Trimble as he had Pat's - or Alf's proxy- and I am sure he must have had Mr. Anderson's. Pat rarely sees him for the reason that she sees very few people and as he comes right after supper every night and thats a bad time for her to see him, but I have often wondered if it wasnt a bad policy on her part in not seeing him. That duty is left to me always when I am there and I wonder too if he does not wonder at that but I cant make any suggestions- it just none of my business. And I cant visit and try to regulate any ones business- but I have often wished Pat would see him oftener.

Nell Moore is coming home today for a visit. So far as the family is concerned I think she married very well but "Bill"- has no position yet and his foster father (a doctor) very ill. But they run around a lot having been in Danville over the week end and they are coming here for the week. Mattie Hickman is in Bowling Green at Business School - Milton in Center and the remainder of the young generation here at home. Agnes will go to college somewhere next year, I suppose- and Lucy Belle still agonizing with the ardent lover who continues to be most persistent and for whom she cares not a rap- I think he bores her to death but I am afraid she will end by marryi ng him. Alfred ~~may~~ hopes to land a political job but so far has not succeeded.

I have thought so much about the long trees taking a hundred men to carry and about the animals from Liberia- I do hope I will get to see them at the World's Fair- I had not thought of going and probably will not but these things would add much interest if I do and I have told several people about them who are going. I cant realize that you are in the midst of the real tropics seeing and hearing the things we hear in the movies- I hope it means much to you and that the interest and the pleasure over shadows the inconvenience of it all.

I want to call Ed- there is no chance to talk with him but I often get in touch with him through Elizabeth Durrett- I don't know whether he gets my messages or not. According to a fixed custom she and her family continue to have Sunday morning breakfast with him- I called one Sunday recently but yesterday I didn't have time to do so before going to church.

Josephine has just passed at her lunch hour- I told her I was writing and she says tell Gladys to write to her and tell her all about the life out there. She is very busy of course and I imagine has little time to write but she says she is dying to hear from Gladys and I believe it would mean much to Gladys to establish correspondence with her. The life you are leading is too interesting not to pass along- Josephine says she is awfully sorry you are too far away for her to spend her vacation with you.

I want to go out and watch Mary mix up pone corn bread. Hoping the "Pfisters" will be here tomorrow I am getting everything in absolute readiness. Mr. Hall seems to think they will take this apartment and Mr. Wood- the man who bought his drug store knew the family in Terra Haute and he says he will do all he can to make him see this is the best place in town. They are delighted with it when they saw it but said it was too high but Mr. Wood pays exactly the same for his and he said he would be glad to say to Mr. Pfister that he could do no better and get where he knows they would want to be- so with a friend and a real estate agent pulling for me I have hopes. Mr. Hall may be stringing me but he certainly talks enthusiastically about the prospects.

There is no news. Lots of weddings but they are among the very young. Girls seem to feel that they must marry as soon as they get through school- and that's what I am afraid Lucy Belle will do. She is at the Country Club today with a friend- and relative- in-law with whom she is quite intimate- one Eleanor Graham (Mr. C.M. Granddaughter) she quit school to marry young John Thurman (Alf's great nephew)- I don't think it's been a happy marriage but Eleanor has her own house, her own car and unlimited freedom and that has its appeal and so they all are doing it and if I were to call their names (of the weddings I mean) you would not know who I was talking about. Maggie Jackson's death was the only real news and I wrote you about that- it was tragic but she simply ran herself to death- I have heard people doing that but Maggie was the first I ever knew to do it. She had an awful illness years ago and started running things as soon as she got home and never stopped. She had heart trouble and very high blood pressure- she built a house last fall against her doctor's advice and having built it she had the grounds looking like it had been lived in for years. She never stopped. The morning she died she went to a rummage sale at the Country Club- stayed there until two o'clock, came home just in time to dress to drive to Owensboro with the Dr. Garys- and it was while she was dressing to go that she was seized. She was walking down the stairs with her coat and Fred's when her sight failed- her head began aching furiously and she asked Fred to call Dr. Thomas. By the time Fred got back from the phone she was unconscious and never rallied- lived until ten o'clock that night after having been stricken at three in the afternoon. People who never regard tired nature can expect to pay the price. Maggie was barely forty but she had driven her body and mind to the last extremity - and so uselessly- generally to run some public affair then (see Mary T's letter)

Hopkinsville- Saturday.

My beloved Son:

Your letter yesterday gave me a thrill at the very look at the outside- it came too late for me to see the bank but I am going ~~out~~ first thing this morning and will add to this what I find out. I remember perfectly the night you wrote to the bank- cant see why you didnt hear from them. I am glad to be here to see about the note for you and trust it will all come out all right.

The time is drawing near for your departure and again I want to say how proud I am of you for having this position handed to you. It would have been a compliment if you had been seeking it but much more coming as it did unsolicited by you. I am just as proud of you as can be and I know you will make good in it and I trust it is an opening for even better things as you go along. I just hope the next one will not be so far away but I still think its a grand chance to see something of the world and I hope you and Gladys will look upon it as a grand adventure and get all you can out of it of pleasure and experience as well as business.

I havent had any luck so far with the apartment- it is finished now and lovely- I wish you could see it. I will stay on here until it is rented- unless that is too long- but unless you hear to the contrary I will probably be here during most of the coming week. Gladys writes that you will sail the 14th- thats Thursday. You will probably not leave Akron before Wednesday- if you should call me before you leave I will be down home each night after 7:30 - Tel 633-W. I believe thats better than trying to take a message here. Beginning with tonight I am going to stay there as I think thats the best way to get in touch with people as I have entire use of the phone (Mrs. Wilson being the other party on the line and gone all day) and besides there is no use in having a perfectly good place of my own and staying here particularly as I am taking my dinners at night over at Mrs. McKnight's so I can be in touch with the tobacco people as many of them go there for meals and a boarding house is the best place in the world to hear all thats going on and here I see no one and hear nothing. Pat has been perfectly love but I must look out for my own interest and she has too much on her to even ask her a question. Alf is not so well- a pitiable wreck if I have ever seen one and a terrific care on Pat.

I am so thankful your cold is better- I do so hope the voyage will prove a lasting benefit to you both- I am told there is nothing as good for the nerves as a long voyage and you and Gladys both need the rest and the nerve tonic. I hope to have that letter that was to be written Thursday- You must have made a hurried trip to Green Bay and from the time the letter was mailed you must have had a night trip- which wasnt any help.

As the trunk got there I am sure the books did- sorry I could not find the others but they were just not there. If you both have finished the "How to Make Friends"- etc which

I found in the trunk- Mary Thompson thought so highly of it she bought it in California and she has often said she would not take anything for having read it for she says it has helped her more than anything she ever read-- she had put it in the trunk so finding it there I sent it on. If you haven't read it ~~carefully~~ or if Gladys hasn't take it along with you- it might be fine reading on the seas. But read it and get Gladys to- it changed my mind on many points and I know you will both feel repaid for reading it and I may add using it! Most people must need that very instruction else it would not have been such a wonderful seller!

There is no news- I have seen few people and those I have seen are not interesting. All I can think of is you!

As I started to say just now I will take dinner at Mrs. McK's each night then go right down home and be there if you call- I can get there by 7:30- and remember the number- I kept the phone in as I just have to have it- the number again is 633-W. Its Claude Roberts old phone and in his name and not ~~min~~ so call by number and not by name, unless you put in a person to person call and in case that might be necessary I will call Central's attention to the number.

All the family join me in much love- all wishing you every success in your venture.

With a heart full of love- and loving recollections of the dear hours spent together so recently- and with love to Gladys in which also the family all join--

Thompson

Did you sell your car and get your price for it?

I am writing so hurriedly there are many mistakes-I want to get to the bank early and get this off airmail.

Do you sail on the "Humhow"- thats the way I read it in Gladys letter.

*I had my conversation with Mr. Weather-
I was in a hurry to go to the Lead man who
possess - he was long - Chas. said the note
how true she is to you - Mr. Z. gave me this
on and said if the other had been signed &
returned to bank to ~~draw~~ this on. In the
letter you have not received the other, signed*

this one and return it to Sam. ^{May}
if the other ~~has~~ turns up electricity it -
I am glad you could get it signed and
settled by the Lord - I never had such
treatment from any one ~~other~~ from Mr.
Wright - Recently I have made a
point of being very friendly with him -

the older & for the more I see
that John, Lago - (hays-thor is).

Again with fondness love, and hoping
this return gives precious mind -

Let Buc -
now let.

Heck ..

FIRST CITY BANK & TRUST CO.

FOR CREDIT OF

19

[illegible]

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THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY
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MRS. MARY F. TANDY, SPECIAL AGENT
490 STARKS BLDG., LOUISVILLE, KY.

TELEPHONE: CITY 1200

Thur sday.

My Precious Boy:

This must be just a note and I guess, should not be writing it as I should be at work, but if I don't write this morning you will not get it until Monday and if you are as much disappointed as I am and I am sure you are, you will want to hear from us.

I am simply sick with disappointment and anger and the more I think of the unreasonableness of you being allowed to come right through here and not given the chance to call me the madder I get. I hope to hear from you soon explaining the peculiar circumstance. When I talked with you over the phone, each time, time was too precious to enter into a discussion so I tried to make the best of a very distressing situation and also I did not want to upset you more than I feared you were already-- but the more I think of it and the more I dwell upon the precious opportunity we were deprived of the more indignation I feel. When I think of how much you have sacrificed it makes me perfectly furious and when I consider what that one night would have meant to us I can hardly contain myself. Every day something comes up to upset the already shot to pieces condition of affairs until I have given up all hope of anything ever being any better-- a talk with you would have steadied me more than any thing in the world and to have been so ruthlessly deprived of it-- there are just not words enough to express my contempt of such ruthlessness and selfishness. I enclose Georgia's letter-- I should not do so as it will only increase your disappointment!

I hope to get a ride home tomorrow with the two Elizabeth. I go in the hope that Mother will come back with me-- I can do no business so I might as well be going as staying here and they need me there to relieve the awful tension and monotony and boredom of Georgia's constant grieving over what can't be helped. I don't see how they stand it and so I go to help break the awful days. Georgia wired that my visits are the only break and while I would do any thing in the world for her I censure her for not trying to do for others and not trying to lighten the load instead of reminding them all of it all of the time. It is maddening and I know Mother wants to get away-- a more nervous person would have broken down under the strain of it all. So I must go to her and help her and get her out of it all if I can, I hope there will be room enough in the car to bring her back with us. We will come back Sunday night-- or afternoon rather. Please try to write when you can. How do you find the ride back, and was it any nearer? My only comfort in that is that you could not have come through here as the roads are entirely under water as I wrote you and I know Mr. Jones would not have taken the time to double back from Brdstown as all the traffic has to come that way now, I hope you did not have any difficulty at Huntingdon as the papers said they were under water too. Please write me for I have stood all I can stand.

With a heart full of love and longing and disappointment

Mother

March 11th.

My Precious Boy:

Your letter was indeed a joy and I thank you more than I can say for the check and the money order. The Puritan will hold the check I am sure although I have not deposited it with them yet. I thought I would better hold on a day or two longer until the bank opened and to see if I needed it more than they did. I don't think there will be any doubt that Mattrest will improve and business open up soon. I am trying not to worry but with business so dull I can't help it sometimes.

I thought I was going to have a nice afternoon to write you ~~xxx~~ but just after I came in from downtown Anne came in and made a long visit, then I indulged myself in a short nap and had just gotten up when Mary Thompson and Frances came in so my quiet is ended. They went downtown after work and did a little looking around as Saturday is their only day for that sort of thing.

While I was at the office this morning Arthur asked me to drive downtown home with him tomorrow. He has been planning for some time to go as she has a case in court and he has to be there Monday so we are leaving at noon tomorrow and will be there until Tuesday morning. I have so wanted to go down since the bank closing and before they open again as there are several cases I am so anxious to close and now the people must have lost all confidence in banks as a whole and the insurance companies have so proven their safety. I will send you our statement which is a peach!

I enclose a letter from Georgia. I hate to send these letters as they are always so depressed but you asked me to keep you in touch with Dr. Woodard and this is the only way I can do so. I also enclose one from Pat as it gives another angle, and also tells of Becky's and Tom's approaching marriage, which I hope comes off this time. Also Alfred's address as you requested-- box 4178, Duke University, Durham, N.C.

I am so sorry about the accident to your leg and glad you went to the doctor right away before there was any infection. Please take care of it and don't let there be any hang over. When I was downtown this morning I saw some such attractive summer pajamas and started to get you some. They are slip overs and so attractive and cool looking. This was a special but there will be other chances to get them and if you want me to I will get you some and send them if you will just let me know.

I have got to go out and see about some food for tomorrow and too I want to get this in the afternoon mail as there is only one on Saturday so I won't try to write any more today. Please don't wait another long time to write as I am coming back Tuesday, for sure. When I tell you I am going home you seem to think there is no need for letters and you generally take for granted I am staying there much longer than I do stay. I hope you will keep your promise and write more at length as you said in your letter from Charleston. I do thank you so much for the money order from there-- I am going to try not to use it for I am afraid you need it more than I do. I wish I did not have to deprive you of so much-- Oh, I will be so thankful when we can get on our feet better. I know we have much to be thankful for but I do hate to see you and Mary Thompson work so hard and have to spend it all on bare living expenses!

Again thanking you for the check and for the generous money order and with a heart full of love in which Mary Thompson joins me---

Mother

The PURITAN APARTMENTS LOUISVILLE



March 21st.

My Precious Boy:

The joy of hearing your voice over the phone is unspeakable, but the message it carried Sunday night was almost unbearable. For the first time in your life I told you a falsehood when I said I knew Mr. Jones was doing his best --if I had said what I really thought I should have burst out crying right there and ruined what pleasure was left for us. Now any man could have let another pass right through the same town with his mother and not given him time for a telephone call to say the least is utterly beyond me! It would not have taken you five minutes to call me-- I had been listening for the call ever since I got Gladys' badly worded telegram, and then to get it saying you had passed through-- well I didn't close my eyes that night hardly. Then began another day of hoping to hear that you were coming, then your message! Such colossal selfishness I have rarely seen and I resent it from the bottom of my heart-- after all you have done-- bah! it makes me sick and I can now scarcely write for the tears of disappointment. And then too, that he should have let you stay so long in Nashville on uncertainty when you could have run over home for the night-- well, there is no use dwelling upon a painful subject for I know you were deeply disappointed too, but the more I think of it the madder I get. I do trust that some day we will be repaid for your many efforts and sacrifices but they are right hard while they last and this makes one wonder if there is any appreciation!

I am sorry Georgia said what she did to you. Each time I am with her I see new evidence that she has no discretion. I had said in my last letter to her that with the worry of them at home on my mind constantly and the lack of business here I sometimes felt like giving up and not trying to fight any longer. I enclose her letter to me which I had yesterday and you can see how she has answered me. Mother used to fuss at her when she was young about exaggerating-- she said it was Georgia's "besetting sin"-- and that trait has followed her all of her life--she exaggerates everything and certainly in this case she did and in her own life as it is now she is ruining the lives and the happiness of every one around her with her exaggerated idea of their own condition. I wish you could have gone to see Mother and I don't know anything that would have given her as much pleasure as a visit from you, but if Georgia had seen fit to turn loose on you (as she certainly would have done) and given you the history of her troubles you would have wished you had stayed in Nashville. She never lets any one escape. It is perfectly maddening to those at home and I don't see how Mother stands it. I have suggested that she come up here for I am doing no business and could easily have her but if it did interfere my first duty is to her. But she has had so many attacks of hernia Georgia and Pat have advised against her coming but the situation is getting on her nerves and a letter from Pat tells me that she said she wished she had come back with me. You can't think how awful it is at home and the terrible part is it gets no better-- Pat said Georgia was at her house twice Friday right while she was in the midst of getting ready for a party for Margaret and she had to stop everything to listen to her go over and over what she had said hundreds of times-- always the same thing over and over--censure of Dr. Wodard, fear of the future, resentment, bitterness. She will either break down or go crazy and she is running the rest of the family almost insane and I must get Mother out of it. I am terribly sorry for her and certainly she has every cause to worry and to resent but she is not helping matters at all and is rendering every one around her most unhappy and Mother most of all for

with her there is no escaping day or night. Mother told me when I was there last that Georgia now sleeps in her room-- and that is the queer part for she kids herself into thinking and trying to make other people think it is because she is uneasy about Mother which is absurd as Mother is as well as she has been for a long time except for the hernia which she has had since last September--the real reason is she does not want to be disturbed as she is by Dr. Woodard walking and rooming all over the house as he does but of course he would not go into Mother's room-- she goes to bed about eleven and Georgia about one and of course Mother wakes when she goes in. Georgia wakes about six o'clock every morning and has a violent crying spell and goes over the whole story to Mother and of course that is the end of sleep for Mother and she gets up then Georgia goes back to sleep and sleeps until nine o'clock, so you see Mother has the brunt of it and candidly I am most resentful that her rest is disturbed as it is particularly when she has to listen to it all day long after the interrupted rest. Georgia has lashed herself into believing that her whole life has been one of sacrifice for the family-- she says she married to help us! They came home to live and lived there for nothing until after Robert was born, two years! Queer idea of helping out and yet she has kidded herself into believing it. She says she has sacrificed everything to the carrying on of the business and yet by actual count she and Dr. Woodard have saved over \$20,000 by living there since Father's death. There was never a month that it did not cost us or Pat or Agnes at least \$150 to keep house and they have all lived at Mother's for the paltry amount of \$50 a month-- a saving of at least \$100 a month for the last sixteen years-- and yet she does not count that as anything and tells every one who will listen that she has sacrificed everything for her family "but she is afraid they don't realize it"-- All of this sacrifice business has become an obsession with her and candidly it becomes quite a bore to us all as it never existed except in her mind's eye..but we are all badly fed up on it. And so I want to get Mother out of it all and I am writing her today to ask her to come up here if it means I never write any more insurance. Nellie is good about staying at a small increase in her wages-- she is a joy any way and makes life so much easier for us. With wages as low as they are and food also it is the cheapest way we can live as board has not gone down in proportion-- unless I do the cooking myself and that I can't do-- it would drive me to suicide. I don't know how and trying to do it so absorbs me that there is neither time nor energy nor inclination left for anything else so that it means give up business entirely and too it is hard on Mary Thompson as she works too hard not to have nourishing food when she comes home. It always makes me mad when I hear any one say that any woman should know how to cook as it is so simple! And there are lots of people who think that-- I can prepare food in a way but it is a very poor way and aside from the torture it is to me it is a great injustice to Mary Thompson and a real menace to her health. She was so glad to talk with you Sunday night and I am so glad you called us instead of telegraphing. She is so good and fine and deserves so much more than she gets and I am not going to ruin that little if I can help it by undermining her health and her ability to work.

I have had trouble with one of my ears. I have had several boils, the last one coming in my left ear which has proven quite painful so when I finally went to see John Stites he said it was no case for him and had me go to a specialist who said I very narrowly missed a very painful siege as the boil was just over the ridge from the inner ear and he has tried to absorb or scatter it and I hope he has succeeded. He found that my ear drums were sinking and asked me if I noticed any deafness which I had on many occasions so he said for me to come back tomorrow so he could inflate them-- it is what Dr. Brown said years ago but the method of inflation is different. I certainly don't want any deafness to remain if there is any way to prevent it so I am thankful the trouble has been discovered.

Business is dead but there is promise on every hand that it will come back and with insurance has the best outlook in years so I have not given up hope of doing something yet. I am sorry Georgia so exaggerated what I said both in her own mind and to you-- I haven't given up and I have no idea of doing so nor do I want us all to "get in a huddle and die" as she so cheerfully expressed it in her letter. This is a very unpleasant letter but I can't help it. I am mad through and through and disappointed beyond measure that we were so completely left out of any consideration when you came through here. But I do think you were wise

The PURITAN APARTMENTS LOUISVILLE



to go back a shorter way-- I wondered why Mr. Jones ever chose to come this way as it seemed to me so much farther than say by Richmond or Somerset. I see in the morning paper that the road was under water from a point south of West Point as the river parallels the road from there on into the city-- so if you had tried you could not have gotten into L. that way but would have had to go to Bardstown which of course would have carried you too far out to get into the city without doubling back. So as you were hurrying to get back you made a lucky choice in not coming this way as you would have lost several hours by so doing. All of which goes to show that you should have been given a chance at first and the sane and sensible and considerate thing would have been to stop over here for the night, spending the night right here in The Puritan which is partly a hotel with a garage and every convenience right at hand. It would have made only a few minutes difference in the time of your getting to Nashville and would have been an infinite satisfaction and pleasure to you and Mary T. and me-- the more I think of it the madder I get!

I got you some socks at a sale the other day. Stewart runs these specials some times and I think the values are always good and the socks are so cheap I try to keep you supplied that way. Even if they don't last long they are so cheap it is worth while getting them, and I have looked at socks at other places (in the windows) and they cost double what these did. I will send them in a day or two but it is still too cold for you to need them. I failed to get the books while I was at home but will try to remember the next time.

I have to go down town so must stop. If I wait to write until I get back it delays the letter a day as there is no way of posting it so it will get into the afternoon mail.

I think you were exactly right not to try to force your plans on Mr. Jones as I know he must be terribly worried and with cause. I am so sorry about the law suits and I do so hope your companies will not have to pay them. What bearing will it have on the New-Kanawha plants if they do? Please keep me posted as I am deeply interested. It was too bad Mr. Jones had to leave just when he did and I hope his leaving was no disadvantage to the case. Was it? Did Mrs. Jones go with you all? I did so enjoy your letter from Nashville-- if you knew what pleasure a letter from you always brings I am sure you would write a little oftener. I am so glad you enjoyed the contents of the boxes-- wish I had more things good to eat to send you and I am so glad about the work shop-- every man should have a hobby and it pleases me that you have a place where you can indulge in yours. What did you make out of the black walnut?

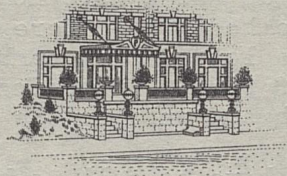
With a heart full of love and regret that you and I and Mary T. came so so near such an exquisite pleasure and missed it so narrowly---

M. T. Jones

(over)

One occasion for any depression I feel is not only the loss of a very dear friend in the death of Mrs. T.J. Howe on last Friday but also of a good prospect for an Annuity. She had told me frequently lately that she was soon going to put \$10,000 in one with me and if she had lived it would have gone through soon and the commission would have been \$300 to me. Some loss, isn't it? I have been working on her for over two years and just as success was almost in my hands it was snatched away by her death and as far as I can see there is no one involved in her will who would be remotely interested in any form of insurance or annuity.

The PURITAN APARTMENTS LOUISVILLE



February 17th.

My Dear Son:

This is one of the times when I am so bored I can't think! I wrote you from down home some days ago-- I haven't the least idea when for I was there ten days and it seemed as many weeks. Mary Thompson had the good fortune to get off for one day and at the same time the chance to ride down-- a rare combination! Mary Browning, a teacher, was going down Saturday to stay until Monday and called and asked me to go and my faithful Nellie told her I was there but that Mary Thompson wanted to go so she called and asked her to go down with her which she did and we all came back together on Monday. I was so glad she could go for it is such a pleasure to her, always, and this time she didn't stop a minute except when she was asleep.

I had much work to do and have been hard at it ever since I got back but as yet to no purpose and every where one turns there is the same story of depression and conditions getting worse instead of better that it is enough to drive one insane. And all of the time I was at home Georgia's mental condition and her resentment of the situation and of Dr. Woodard's having concealed it all from her was so constantly before us all and so completely pervaded the household that I have not been able to shake that off at all. I have been hard at work ever since I got back and today stayed here to try to catch up with my writing as so much of that sort of thing has to be done and being away the best part of a month one can get sadly behind. I had asked a young woman to have lunch with me as this was Nellie's day to clean and that meant she would be here to fix the lunch. She was the head of the Beauty & Salon at Stewart's and a very lovely and prosperous looking person on whom I had been working ever since last summer and she put me off until after Christmas and then from week to week as I was away so much but the last day before I went home the last time she called and said one of the New York women was here and she would have to be with her and could not see me for a day or two and what the N.Y. woman did was to come down here and oust that girl and take her job herself on the pretext of dissatisfaction among the operators but in the meantime she grabbed the job herself for the present and still has it and my prospect thrown out! Of course I know only her side but it seems too bad and certainly I am sorry I could not get that insurance through before it happened. But she has too high a place not to expect that she will get another and she assured me today that if (or when) she does she wants the insurance right away as she is not satisfied with what she has. Of course her being here took a good part of the day but not all and it may mean business. She is delighted with the Puritan and that is one reason I asked her to come as she is leaving the Kentucky Hotel (her parents lived here until December when they went to Detroit to live) and I suggested her coming here as I am trying to build up a following which may pay me something as a commission. I have that promise if I can bring any renters here and I am certainly trying to do that very thing. She says she is coming if she stays here in Louisville so I thought it might prove a day well spent-- but you never can tell!

Mary Thompson and Arthur are out playing bridge tonight. I am glad she is away--I am always glad for her to have anything to do but tonight I am doubly glad as I want to go to bed as soon as I finish this letter. I have had to write several today and have had to interview several people, all most uninteresting and then I have read, read, read! The Equitable is putting out so much such valuable advertising and they send us each week most instructive literature of such a high type and if one does not read it as it comes you know how hard it is to catch up and I have not kept up with the advertisement program as I should have done had I been here and I am trying now to catch up and find I will have to get a lot of back numbers of magazines which is always hard to do and takes a lot of time. But being at home so much where I could not read made me miss so much and only in the quiet here can I catch up on it.

I hope they will not have to call me back home again. Of course my first duty is there if they need me but candidly Georgia is acting ridiculously and I just can't go back to her constant crying and sighing and fretting against what can't be helped and her constant criticisms of Dr. Woodard are unbearable. I have no excuse for him-- it was just a plain case of fool with him-- not only bad investment but spending his own and other people's principal year after year and deceiving them all. But it is done and can't be helped and certainly Georgia's attitude does not help any phase of the situation and is most disturbing to us all.

I hope you are not having to work so hard. I have been distressed ever since I got your letter-- I know I told you why in my last letter and may be I said all the rest I have said but it seems so long ago I can't remember. But I do want to hear that your work has eased up-- I am thankful that you have a good job but I hate for you to have to work day and night as you do.

I had gotten my hopes up about a trip out to see you when I saw the rates for the Inauguration the 4th of March which comes on Saturday and the C & O offer such cheap rates to Washington but they have no rates except to that one point! I asked at the office and was told that, however they have a year around rate like I took before and if it suits you I want to come out early in March to see you. It has been three months since we were together and as near as these two points are that is long enough for us to be separated-- as long as we can make the trip for as little as \$11.85 and that is what the rate is, provided you can meet me in Charleston some Friday night. Can you do that and will it suit you any time soon? I can leave here at 1:30 as I did before getting there (Charleston) about ten o'clock and spend Saturday and Sunday with you coming back from Montgomery so you would not have to give another day as you did before. Do you want me to do that?

I am too tired tonight to write much and what I have written I fear is most uninteresting-- but these are uninteresting times, aren't they? I want to get this in the mail and didn't know it was so late.

With a heart full of love

Arthur

THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES
393 SEVENTH AVE. NEW YORK

THOMAS I. PARKINSON, PRESIDENT

SOUTHERN OHIO, KENTUCKY AND SOUTHERN INDIANA AGENCY
HENRY J. POWELL, MANAGER

MRS. MARY F. TANDY, SPECIAL AGENT
490 STARKS BUILDING
LOUISVILLE, KY.

February 23rd.

My Precious Boy:

Your letter yesterday was a delightful surprise as I have become so accustomed to the long waits that an early letter fills me with joy. I am sorry it did not come to me immediately as I had a chance to drive down home with Jack Stites Saturday afternoon, coming back Sunday night and it would have been a wonderful opportunity to bring your books back with me. I had been back here nearly a week so I wondered why you sent the letter down home. I will get the books the next time I go down but I don't know when that will be.

I did not mean to leave the impression that I thought you were cross when you wrote me last-- I said "discouraged"-- and it did sound that way but I did not think you were cross although much work will easily render one very cross, except that you never get that way. I am so glad your work has eased up and that you are beginning to have some time to yourself-- especially the evenings and I am delighted you took the time to relax and revel in having nothing to do.

I am getting so anxious to see you again and as there are rates on each week end I am wondering if you want me to run out ~~some~~ Friday as I did before and stay until Monday. The rates at that time are a little over one fare and I think it would be money well spent for ~~us~~ to be together for that time. It distresses me more than I can say that we have to be separated as we do and yet it can't be helped, but as long as you are not getting any long vacations now it seems to me the thing for us to do is to take advantages of all opportunities to get together on cheap rates as often as we can. It has been three months since I saw you and there are so many matters to discuss and letters are so inadequate! The ~~th~~ 30th of May is the next holiday and as it comes on Tuesday I am hoping maybe you can come to us then. If we can arrange a system where by I can come to you about every three months for a day or two and you can come to us in the meant time that will mean four peeps a year and will add much to my pleasure and to Mary Thompson's-- and maybe on some of the trips she can come with me. If you would answer immediately I can come this next week end, leaving here the afternoon of the 3rd which is Friday getting there at the same time I did before, and staying until Monday. It might not be convenient for you to take any time off Monday and I would not ask you to but you could go on to your work and I could leave from Montgomery without you and then I would have had two whole days with you. This will reach you in time to answer Saturday or Sunday and I trust you will do so for when I begin to think of going to you I get so impatient to see you I feel that I just can't wait any longer. Mary Thompson has an invitation to go to Cincinnati over the same week end (and I hope it materializes) and if so it would be a fine time for me to go to you. So please let me hear immediately if it suits you and if you want me the 3rd

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of March which is next Friday. Please be sure to answer one way of the other immediately.

I am sorry not to be able to tell you anything more definite about Dr. Woodard. He has in some way ~~lost~~ through bad investments and loose spending wasted his mother's entire estate so that she is entirely penniless in her old age and his sister's affairs are almost as bad but she had real estate and they still have that but he has reduced them from a comfortable living with no need for worry, to penury! And besides that he has gotten his own and Robert's affairs in a hopeless tangle having all they have involved. Robert seems to have laid down on the job at the farm, stays in town all of the time sleeping until nine o'clock every morning-- the boy Hreschel had to get another job so the farm is left in old Tom's hands although the cook stays there all of the time and I don't know how many other servants. Georgi is a complete wreck and sees and talks nothing but utter ruin. Dr. Woodard seems well although Mary Thompson thought he looked very ill but I do not-- as you said his practise has amounted to nothing so there is nothing to rebuild and he seems to have no concept of the frightful debacle he has brought down on them all. I could write pages on the subject but in the end could say no more than that. But I would love to talk it all over with you.

I mailed you a small box from home when I was there and another from here last week. I had brought a little ham from home and as I thought it was so good I sent you some and the jam I have had for so long. I wanted to send it in time for you to have it Sunday but had to have the ham baked Friday so could not get it off before Saturday. We still have some of the ham so I am sending you another small box today, this time on time for you to have it in your room Saturday and Sunday. I can't make many things to eat, you know, but I always want you to have something when there is anything I know you like as I know you do the ham from home. Please be sure to get it out of the P.O. for I mailed it early this morning and it certainly should be there by Saturday. I started to mail it to Montgomery but was afraid that would mean a special trip there for it and the box was not of sufficient size for that.

I must stop as I am using one of the typewriters at the office and I am afraid I have had it long enough. Please don't fail to answer right away so I will know how to plan about coming to you next Friday.

Mary Thompson would join me in love if she were here-- she is as bad about writing as you are but she loves to hear from you as I do!

With a heart full of love and hoping to see you soon

*The boy is a shoe boy so you will
have to call on it.*

Marta

1600 SOUTH MAIN STREET
HOPKINSVILLE
KENTUCKY

Feb. 5th

My Dearest Son:

I am beginning to wonder if you have forgotten me? I cant understand how you can let me write of the distress of mind I feel and not respond.

I came down here in answer to an urgent appeal from the family-- last Thursday. You have never seen a household so changed; Georgia has gone all to pieces and of course Dr. Woodard is a wreck-- and I will be if I have to stay here very long. Of course I want to do all I can for them all, but it is shooting what little business hopes I had all to pieces and the continual air of gloom is most demoralizing. You cant think of any one so completely submerging all around in gloom as Georgia is doing and she does not let any one forget it for a minute. The condition is as bad as it can be financially but she isnt helping it out a bit by her attitude. I am thankful to say that Dr. Woodard is going downtown tomorrow-- to what I cant say as it seems unavoidable that he will have to take the bankrupt law as his only escape from his unlimited debts.

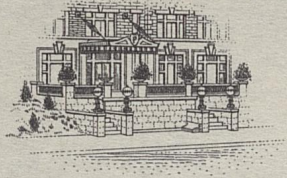
I cant write any more tonight. If I dont hear from you soon I feel that I will just succumb to the load I am trying to carry. It is just proving too much for me.

With love

M. S. C.

I would have thought you would write to Robert. If so dont mention what I have said of the financial situation. He is about as helpful as a new born babe in it all and Georgia as usual continues to baby him-- keeping up her life long practise of unmanning him! She bears the burden and shields him.

The
PURITAN APARTMENTS
LOUISVILLE



Wednesday Night

My Dear Son:

I was disappointed at not hearing from you today-- perhaps there will be a letter waiting for me at home as I have been detained ~~in~~ leaving. I had planned and hoped to go down yesterday with Henry Stowe, a brother of Will Stowe but he had to wait over and said they would be going today but called and said they could not get away until tomorrow. I am not sorry to wait as I hate so to leave Mary Thompson and some how this time I hate it more than usual. It is lonely for her when I am away but the need for me at home is so great that I feel that I must go. Georgia has given down completely under it all and I fear for her health as she is making no effort to throw it all off and make the best of things. I know that is hard and no one of us have ever been placed in such a position as she is in now. But she gains nothing by her extreme depression and I do feel sorry for Mother having to listen all of the time to the dreariness and hopelessness of the situation. If Dr. Woodard realizes he does not show it and the brunt of it all is falling on Georgia.

Arthur is here and they are working a jig-saw puzzle and the radio going so there is small chance to write-- not that the jig-saw matters but that is what kept me at home I am sorry to say-- so I believe I will not try to write any more. There is no news -- so I will make this just a stupid, uninteresting note to say that I will be at home for the rest of the week but hope to get back here early next week.

With much love

Mother

January 23rd.

My Precious Boy:

Your letter came and as always I enjoyed it thoroughly. I felt sure there was some good reason why you had not written but the time seems long between the letters and terribly long this time as it seems ages since Christmas. I am so glad if I selected gifts that have added in any way to your comfort-- the jacket appealed to me at first sight as it looked as if it would be so snug so I brought several out and got Arthur to try them on and selected the one he thought would fit you best. He was most enthusiastic over it and so I knew then it was something a man would like. And the gloves I bought ~~xx~~ hoping you needed them for cold weather driving so if you are telling me the truth about filling the needs I am indeed glad.

My letters to you have been ver brief lately because there has been little to tell and little time. I wanted to write to yesterday but had so many letters to write that I put it off too late and as I have to go down town early this morning this one will have to be short also. If I had known then what I know now I would have taken the rest of the afternoon to write to you.

Last night about half past ten Pat called me and asked if I could not come back home as Georgia is in such a terrible nervous condition. I am so sorry not to be able to go and will do so the first day I can but I am in a perfect panic on the subject. It looks as if Fate is against my really doing any more business-- I had thought there was nothing to interfere with work as soon as the holidays were over and now! As you know when I went down to see about my tooth I found Dr. Woodard paralyzed and each day seems to make matters worse. Georgia is in a perfect panic as she has no idea how far reaching the indebtedness is and none of us can help her. I would never have thought she would give up so completely as she never had any patience with other people's doing so but she seems to have succumbed under this and I am so afraid of the result to her health. I want to do all I can for her and for them all but it has shot what little business I had all to pieces as I have to leave my work here and in that atmosphere there I just can't get my mind fixed on business enough to try to interest any one at home so it means a dead stand still for me and I am scared cold on the subject.

I had planned to drive down with the two Elizabeths next Saturday and I am afraid I will just have to wait until then to go. Besides business I do hate to leave Mary T. alone as it is so hard on her. But she is brave and fine and does not want me to stay here for her. She has had a very nice time since I got back as her friend Arthur has been so nice to her. He called at noon Saturday and asked her to go to lunch with him and to a show. She was not here but called me in a few minutes and I gave her his message so they met and did not go to lunch but did go to a show then came here for a cold supper then he spent the evening and later they went to the dance in the parlor. Yesterday they had an engagement for bridge, then went with another couple to dinner. He seems interested in her, judging by the amount of time he spends with her, but he is supposed to be in love with a girl in Columbus, Ohio. I hope she will not get too interested in him if he is in love with the other girl, but he is most attractive and certainly seems much interested in Mary T. and does much for her pleasure.

I have to go down to the office this morning and as Pat says I am needed so badly at home I will have a very full week trying to get some work in shape to stay on if necessary so I must go on. I am writing now because I am afraid if I wait until later in the day it will not get off on the afternoon train. Please excuse the stationery-- I have not been able to locate any other since I came back. And please write again when you can-- all of this uncertainty is undermining my ability to think and to earn. I enclose some letters from Agnes which I thought you would be interested in reading. I am hoping John will come by here on his trip.

With fondest love

Martin

I am glad you liked the miniature of Mary T. I think it is lovely but not as pretty as she often is and it is older looking than she is. She was pleased that you liked it and I hope you will write to her about it.

1600 SOUTH MAIN STREET
HOPKINSVILLE
KENTUCKY

January 17th

My Dear Son:

When I wrote you last I thought I would be back in Louisville before now but the need here has been so acute I just could not get away.

I have been disappointed that you have not written to Robert. They are in such trouble; and Georgia has never failed us at any time and while she has not said anything the fact that she has not called your name indicates to me that she is hurt at not having heard from you-- one of them.

As I wrote you Dr. Woodard had a slight stroke of paralysis and while he is much better the outcome is most uncertain. He went to Nashville yesterday to go through the Vanderbilt Hospital clinic and will be there for several days. But his health is not the only trouble-- the cause of the stroke was evidently worry over money matters and developments since he was stricken indicate that all they have is lost! And through his management. It is enough to break any man's health! Georgia is frantic for it means that Robert at thirty three after never have made anything of his life faces a penniless future for them all. It is most distressing and I dread to think of the consequences. He is sweet with his Mother but that does not help the financial situation any ~~more~~ and it seems hopelessly dark for them all. And Dr. Woodard has yet to find that they know it! He is much better, apparently, physically but in a most wretched state mentally -- I can't see any way out for them and I dread the reaction on Mother which is bound to come.

I wonder if the place you hoped to get for Robert is still a possibility? If so it would mean everything to them now -- the farm can get along as well without him as with him and he can easily be spared here. I wish she could find some place where he could make a definite salary, if only enough to carry himself.

I do so hate being away from Mary Thompson and I have business which is calling me back but my family stood by me when our affairs seemed hopeless and they have never failed me for a minute so I must stick by them in their need. But I do hope I can get away tomorrow or the next day as I just must be getting back for a while any how.

I am sorry not to have heard from you myself-- its getting near to a month again since I heard from you so it will mean much to get another of your rare letters. But I must urge you to write to Robert or to Georgia-- ~~preferably~~ to Robert-- he is in such a hard position and having always been under the control of his parents he has no idea how to be their help now nor do they know how to let him-- but he needs your sympathy and I am surprised and disappointed that you have been so long showing it and I beg that you write to him immediately.

Georgia wants me to go down and mail a package to Dr. Woodard so I must stop.

If the family knew I was writing to you they would send love as they always do. When I think how many other things-- material thing for your comfort and pleasure Georgia has sent you I marvel at your silence ! Please try to undo it right away.

Again with love

M. S. L.

We dread Dr. Woodard finding that the financial condition which he has concealed so far is known. A lawsuit forced the issue and he is in no condition to discuss business and goes all to pieces at the mere mention of it so he has a terrible revelation waiting for him. Please do not refer to any of this but let your letter be purely about the illness feature.

THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

393 SEVENTH AVE. NEW YORK

THOMAS I. PARKINSON, PRESIDENT

MRS. MARY F. TANDY, SPECIAL AGENT
490 STARKS BLDG., LOUISVILLE, KY.

TELEPHONE: CITY 1200

January 28th

My Precious Boy:

The time seems so out of joint I cant remeber when I wrote yo u last but I think it was from down home. I came back last Thursday I believe it was. I had planned to go back again today as I had a way to ride down with Elizabeth Stites and Elizabeth Aberhathy but the weather is so bad they decided not to go. They alwys go on Friday as soon as school is out but syaed over this time to go to "Of Thee I Sing" last night and were to leave at six this morning. Yesterday was awful so they said then if it were not better today they would not try it as its a hard trip anyhow for just a twenty four hour stay and with such disagreeable and uncertain weather I think they were wise not to go. They called me at six this morning and told me they had decided not to go and I certainly was relieved.

I was going because they seem to need and want me so. Pat called me Sunday night and asked if I would not come right back, but I just could not go as there is so much I want to do here. I knew I had that chance to go with the girls so she said it would be alright to wait. My only help to them is in trying to lift the spiritsof the family as Georgia is in the depths and Pat says does not even try to throw it off-- I am going to do all I can but its a terrible strain to try to carry such a heavy load at both ends of the line. The situation with Georgia is awful but her only hope lies in keeping her own head and health and yet she will not see it and will not try to "buck up" at all. I am trying to find something for her to do and for Robert also but unless she geta a better hold on herself she will not be able to do anything if it should preee sent itself. And Robert is no help to her-- how I wish he could find something to do and get away. Its a hard thing to say but she would be infinitely better off as he is just the spoiled child where she is concerned-- all of his life she has unmanned him and no w that there is real need for a man and a man's strength and heart he isnt equal to the xi situation but lets her do all of the thinking and adds himself to her cares. She keeps saying "my sweet, clean, nice boy- to think that this shoud have happened to him"-- of course it is awfuk , but every one else looks on Robert as a man and you would think he was aboy Alfred's age to hear Georgia. And he reacts just as he always has toward her and lest her d o all of the worrying-- no, I dont mean that for he looks ans seems worried t death but he does not try to throw it off nor encourage her to think he will help to pull them out. He just frowns and sulks and sighs and makes her worse all of the time so if he could get away he would be better off as he would cheer up, and if he could earn something instead of having to be handed even the money to pay his servants it would help in a way to solve the matter.

I hate to keep writing you the disagreeable things about home life bu I think you should know it all. It has utterly unfitted me in my work and as a result my Doldrums continue. Sometimes I get in a per feret panic and when I dont hear from you I just despair-- one thhank you note since Christmas and not another line!

Mary Thompson is going to the Brown-Williamson party tonight at the Brown. All of the officers and the of ice force were expected to take tables as its a Cabaret affair and so she aske Arthur and Willard and Jacqueline *Johnson* to go as her guest and they are coming here for a while first. I am s o glad for her to have any social activities as Arthur is her only outlet and he is rather selfish in his attentions as its generally to play bridge or just sit here and talk. Occasionally a picture show but neve a show worth while. Last night she and I went to see "Of Thee I sng" and so many of the

young people where there but no one ever asks her to go to anything of the kind. Except for Arthur she has few dates and he is in love with another girl! The whole situation almost gets me at times. She has looked forward with so much pleasure to this affair tonight and ~~after~~ at the last minute Arthur tells her that that girl may be here today and asks that she be included in the party tonight! She lives in Columbus Ohio and his best friend, one Gene Johnson is driving back from New York and Arthur asked him to pick the girl up and bring her back with him, so they are coming just in time to horn in on the party. I am so glad I didn't have to go away today for I hate to leave her at any time and I am afraid the next few days are going to be right trying on her so I am glad to be here with her. I hope I have a chance to ride down the first of the week with one of the Stowes from home and I am glad to have the extra few days here as I was leaving much undone in order to get the ride down today.

So many people both here and at home ask about you. I wish I could remember who they are-- one was Mrs. Chapman when I ran into her at Stewart's yesterday. She tells me that Louise has twin girls born a week ago today. James has a job now and is living in Texas. The Chapman boom certainly busted!

There seems to be no pleasant news to tell you so I must stop. There is just one more matter and I do so hate to bring that up-- didn't it suit you to send the usual check this month? If not please say so and I will try to arrange-- I loathe myself for even mentioning it but the end of the month has come and as I hope to go down home by the middle of the week I want to get everything behind me that I can, and you know I always use that for the rent. But please -- please say if it does not suit you. I would not say anything except you are so forgetful I was afraid you had forgotten or maybe mailed it and it had not reached me. If it does not suit you just omit the January check and let the rent ride for a while until I can make a little money as I hope to do some time this spring. Mr. Jacob is nice and will wait and I would rather do that than embarrass you or crowd you in the least. You are so sweet and generous and fine it breaks my heart to think what a burden we are and what we may be depriving you of! If I could just pass out of the picture what a help it would be to you and Mary Thompson-- my work the first year entitled me to a \$5,000 insurance policy with the company. It expires in April and there is no hope of getting near as much next year so it would be a blessing to you both if I could cash in before then! Then you and she could live together and be rid of this miserable uncertainty.

By the way-- the City Bank at home has let off three more girls and cut the salaries of some of the employees so look out before depositing any more money there. They cut Charles McKee and as he is a vice president you know they cut the others so I imagine it was a general cut. I got rid of your box when I was there the first of the year as you suggested and I got one here as there are a number of papers, especially insurance policies I wanted taken care of better than we are prepared here to do.

I am tempted not to send this letter but I know you want to hear something from us and if I write again I probably will not improve it so I will let it go. I am going down town after lunch and it's nearly lunch time now so I will say good bye.

With a heart full of love

Mary

Could you not find time to drop Mary Thompson a line to tell her what you thought of the lovely miniature? She was pleased at what you said in your letter to me but I think a personal gift like that almost requires a personal answer, don't you?

If by chance you should find time to drop me a line tomorrow, Sunday, as I am mailing this in the hope it will reach you Sunday morning-- send it here. I may not get home until the last of the week and I would so much rather get my mail here than there.

Miss Mary Thompson Tandy

THE PURITAN

Louisville, Kentucky

Sunday Night.

My Dear Son:

It is too late to start a note tonight but while waiting for Mary T. to come in I will do so any how. I write to insist that you let me know your plans for Thanksgiving--if you knew the heart ache, the worry, the distress your long silences cause me you would not treat me as you do about writing to me. This fact I want you to sit down and consider-- in the two months that have passed since I saw you you have written me ONE letter-- do you think that is fair? Sometimes I feel that I have reached the end of the row-- I have stood and stood until I cannot stand no longer and your indifference would be the crowning blow! Is your only interest in helping to support us? I just cannot understand you, son-- I feel simply crushed tonight for I thought of course today would bring me a letter. Its awfully wearing having that hope EVERY day and each day realizing its a false one. Dont drive me to desperation-- I'm nearly there now .

I enclose the rates as announced by the C & O-- As much as I want to hear from you I dread a letter saying you are not coming-- but you must write me immediately -- my nerves are entirely gone and when I see the awful havoc that worry is working among those I know I wonder when my time will come, for come it will if I am not relieved of this awful tension I labor under-- sometimes I am tempted to ~~help~~ it come!

I must stop for tonight-- if I don't hear I shall telegraph you--With love and a breaking heart----

Mant



April 6th

My Precious Boy:

There is nothing new to tell you so I am writing just a note to say that I am going back to Louisville tomorrow-- and hope to find a letter from you waiting for me there. I had hoped to get a ride back but there seems to be little chance so there is nothing to do but go on the train. I am glad the L & N rates have been reduced as it makes the trip cheaper but even at that I wish I could get a ride back. I thought I had one cinched but find I have not. I could have gone back with the Elizabeths but would have had to leave Sunday at noon and really Mother and Georgia needed me too badly for me to do that. The situation here does not improve at all and unless Robert can find something to do I cant see what the future holds for them. Georgia is just distracted and I cant blame her as the whole situation is most gloomy looking. But I will not dwell on that.

I enclose a letter I had from Mary Thompson as I know you like to hear what she is doing. I do hate to leave her and am always glad when she had dates to occupy the evenings-- in the daytime she does not need me as her days are so full. But she comes home so tired at night I hate not to be there with her-- she is so unselfish though she wants me to stay here as much as they need me. Besides getting back to her I think I should be back with the doctor as my eye is still giving me trouble and as he says my glasses do not fit-- and I am sure he is right-- I am under a constant strain which is bad from every point of view. I have tried to do some business but it is always the same answer "see me when you come back-- I cant do anything now". I wonder if I will ever get any more business!

I want to give this to the postman so he can put it in the afternoon mail so I will stop. I am using this big machine which I hate but the sitting room is always given over to the Woodard family when they are here and as Robert and Mr. Woodard are working the eternal jig-saw puzzle (both being gentlemen of elegant leisure!) they do not like to be disturbed with the typewriter (as long as it is not Georgia using it)-- so if I write I have to come up in Georgia's office which as you know she has moved to the house, and use the office typewriter and it is like a thrashing machine.

If the family knew I was writing they would send much love as always when I write to you. They are still disappointed that you were so near and did not get to come over. I certainly had hoped to have a letter telling me something more about the trip-- before now.

I mailed you a box of peppermint candy yesterday from Howard & Southall's -- somehow I think it better than any I get anywhere and it lasts well and keeps so fresh I always think of you as enjoying it. Hope you will do so this time.

With a heart full of love

Marta

May 18th.

My Precious Boy:

It seems ages since I wrote to you nor heard from you! I am sure I wrote you about Mary Thompson's promotion and I thought surely that would bring a reply of some sort! I have the horrible feeling that we are just drifting apart and that I cannot stand!

I have never worked as hard in my life as I have the last few weeks and never accomplished less so again I feel completely baffled. I thought when I undertook the work of trying to get automobile insurance at a 25% discount it would be easy sailing but I find it about as hard as any other kind of selling, all of which is most difficult now. I feel that I am marking time and that is all.

I am wondering if you are planning to come to see us over the 30? I have so set my hopes on your coming and as the time draws near I watch the mails for a letter saying you are coming-- I must see you. I want to so very much and there are so many matters to discuss. I enclose the last two letters from the family-- the matter of the taxes I have settled-- I knew I owed them but they sent me no notice so I had no idea it would be published. It is disgusting in face of the well known fact that so many don't pay and mine were advertised in two weeks after the time of expiration. I don't wonder the world is full of REDS! I believe I am one myself! But they are paid and I have the receipt so don't worry about that.

I send Agnes' letter also. Did I write you she had such a serious accident to her hand? Caught it in the clothes wringer while was hanging a sweater for John and the arm was carried in up to the elbow, mashing it flat and breaking the bone in her little finger. Fortunately no other bones were broken and the injury only temporary but from the effects she seems to feel like it must have been more severe than she has admitted. I know you will be interested in all her letter has to say so I send it on to you.

Mary Thompson has not come in from work. She has had a deadly time lately as her friends seem to be on the decline-- some of the boys proving perfectly abominable, chiefly Arthur who for a while was lovely but he proved a false friend and as a result she has been quite lonely. Poor child, I wish she could find some friend or friends worthy of her but her choice has been most unfortunate and her very fineness makes it all the harder-- Arthur I fear has developed into a cad or a snob-- she introduced him out of a Catholic crowd and he at last met really nice people for the first time I believe and then he met the debutante crowd having a relative among them and it had quite gone to his head. I really believe he thinks he is too good for us now! We are associated in the same office-- Booker & Kinnaird and I have never been treated with greater condescension on anybody's part as he has recently effected. It makes me sick when I think how much he has been here and how much he has accepted at our hands. It is enough to embitter a young person and I am afraid it has!

Margarte and Harry came up for the Derby and she stayed here and he had his meals here. I enclose his very badly written letter-- it is a nice one though. He asked much about you as he always does. The letter tells of his good luck in winning at home when he lost up here. I also enclose a clipping about Mrs. Rust's death which must have been a great relief to her and to them all.

Georgia's letter tells of the home coming of Mary Barbour and poor old Bob. Do you know that in the two years he has been paralyzed Robert has never come home once? Isn't that awful?

I have some more work which I must do this afternoon so I must stop and get to it-- some people in the neighborhood whom I can see only at this time although as it is nearly supper time-- I can't help wishing the day's work were done! I have worked every night until after nine and expect to do so tonight and as many nights as I can until school is out as that is the only time I can catch

teachers at home and they ar my best prospects(?) on the reduced automobile insurance. I was told I could just mop up with that contract but far from it! It takes a lot of preparation to get the lists in order and to keep them that way-- there are over 1200 teachers and only two of us agents with B & K working among them. Ofcourse I have to find those that have cars then call them up as that is the o ly way I can get them as no one is allowed to solicit anything in the schools-- and between five in the afternoon and nine thirty at night is the only time it can be done and Saturday Last Saturday I went to Mrs. Paine's and s pent the day at her phone as she does not have to pay any toll and I do and she lets me use it but of course at night the boarders want it and it would not be fair to use it them so I am forced to use my own. It is right expensive but it is that or not try and try I must if I am to make anything at all.

I wish I could write ~~you~~ one bright, cheerful letter -- but unless things change cheer has departed forever I fear. If I could only see you and talk with you life might seem different but at present it is only bitterness and disappointment and expense! I must go--

With a heart full of love and hoping and praying you are plann ing to come yo us next week for that is when it is--

Marta

APRIL 20TH

My Dearest Son:

I have time for just a note as I want to get to work early this morning but I cannot refrain from writing the note to remind you that just one month ago today you wrote me your last letter! Do you think that is fair, son? And that letter was from Nash ville telling me a little of the details of one of the bitterest disappointments I have had in years and each day since I have looked and longed for a follow up letter and so far, a whole month, and not one word.

I was glad to get your telegram Easter but always there is the feeling that the letter I so desire is postponed another month possibly by the telegram-- be careful son that you dont go too far and spend a lifetime of regret. I have stood and stood-- I tell you I am in a panic and yet you do not even respond to the appeal-- I cant understand it. I know you are busy but not that busy-- be careful that the ugly word neglect does not apply to you! What constitutes neglect? Think it over and see if the definition does not apply to yourself.

wrote
I havent time to work-- I must start out on the ceaseless grind of the day. I am beginning to feel when I first open my eyes in the morning, my first waking thought, the dread of the days labor with its accompanying disappointments. I was not prepared for any such contingency and often I feel that it is getting too much for me-- and you dont seem to care at all! That is what hurts so-- a whole month of heartache and disappointment and frenzied fear and not a line from you-- there is no use in going on about it-- and candidly son, I cant go in reality much longer in this agonizing suspense without your support which you seem to have entirely denied. But for Mary Thompson's great need I would not be here tonight-- when there is such an easy way out I certainly would take it -- and may yet as you both would be better off without me. I have stood almost to the limit-- the one thing I cannot stand is your defection, your desertion, and almost it seems to have come. Dont kid yourself that the telegram helps-- candidly it did not at all for behind the message of love was the real shifting of a duty-- tears blind me so I must stop-- there is no use in adding heartache to the days grind and making it any harder.

I enclose a letter from Georgia -- its the last one from any of them. She is in a perfect frenzy and I dont blame her. Men who do not look to their family's future take a tremendous responsibility on themselves-- I am a living example of that fact-- and she is worse for she is tied to a living wreck and cant get away. Death is often a blessing-- mine certainly would be.

Dont wait too late to write-- candidly I am desperate!

Marta

THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

393 SEVENTH AVE. NEW YORK

THOMAS I. PARKINSON, PRESIDENT

MRS. MARY F. TANDY, SPECIAL AGENT
490 STARKS BLDG., LOUISVILLE, KY.

TELEPHONE: CITY 1200

February 9th

My Precious Boy:

Your letter dated the 3rd reached me yesterday after having been sent as I requested to Louisville. Ever since reading it I have been most depressed as I feel that I have distressed you unnecessarily-- I wrote to you yesterday to thank you for the check which you are always so generous to send; but I had to write with all of the family in the room so I never feel that my letters are satisfactory when written under those conditions. This morning the bitter weather continues so I decided to stay in the house--I had to go out yesterday and nearly froze before I got back--but I never let the weather interfere with an engagement which I had yesterday. But the one I hoped to have this morning didn't materialize so I decided to stay here in the warmth and let one more day pass in idleness as effort seems to produce little results these days so I might as well take care of my health.

Your letter distressed me because it is about the first time you have written as if you were fatigued and discouraged. I wish I could say more to encourage you for you have been so fine and brave and worked so hard I do so hate to see you feel the drag that so many are feeling and have felt for so long. I have reread your letter and can't rid my mind of that impression and as to your teeth I am most distressed. If you need the bridge we must make some arrangements to have it made no matter what I have to do with out-- I just can't let your health suffer so we can have luxuries. I hope to have a little money coming in next month and I will try to make that do for the rent so you can use what you would send me for the bridge. I have tried so hard to make some money but luck seems against me. It is not only that but this miserable situation here at home just keeps my mind off of anything I might find to do for Dr. Woodard has so completely wrecked the finances of his family and Georgia is so completely crushed (for which I can't and don't blame her) but it is hard that she never for one minute lets any of us forget her loss and her resentment and they pervade the house like a bad odor just everywhere and all of the time sighs and recriminations. Fortunately for Mother she has become quite deaf lately and does not hear all of it but for the rest of us it is terrific and the awful part of it seems to be the helplessness of the situation and Robert is as powerless as a child (which he is in many ways) He too is so depressed that it is maddening and when Dr. Woodard steps in and begins to walk the floor simply feel that I will have to walk out-- that is the real reason for my peevishness with you-- I guess I just had to have an outlet and please know that not for one minute do I consider you an undutiful nor an unsatisfactory son for you are all that you could and should be and you are a rock in a weary land to me.

I could cry my eyes out that you have to work so hard but really we ought to be thankful that we have work and I thank God that you and Mary Thompson have steady jobs with salaries-- if you could see the agony of spirit (which I thank God you can't) that Robert and Georgia are experiencing from lack of work that pays you would feel that no amount of effort was lost if it only pays and we must make our expenses fit the income no matter what sacrifices it entails-- except your teeth for you must save them. I came home to have some dental work done as Dr. Flener is so much more reasonable than the Louisville dentists and too he will wait on the bill-- won't the Charleston dentist do that and maybe we can pay him by the month-- but you should have that bridge put it else it will put too much work on your front teeth-- that is what I was up against and I could not endanger those front teeth.

I thought I had picked a quiet time but there is no such article in this house until Mother goes up stairs at night and then Georgia comes in and so I have no time to myself.

and its about to get me. If I could do anything tangible it would be different and yet when I was away Pat called me and urged me to come down and when I waited for a ride she started to call again as she says this situation is so awful when I am not here-- God pity them all if it is worse than when I am here.

I should not worry you with this but it is a family affair and one call of us must face and each day brings more dire news. Of course it will not at present touch us financially but there seems to be no doubt that Dr. Woodard will be forced into bankruptcy and you would have to know it the. He has absolutely thrown away and spent every penny of his mother's estate and most of Winnies and has so involved the rest of the estate that none of them will ever get a penny out of it-- at least it looks that way now and it is fortunate for him that there is no punishment for Breach of Trust else there is no telling where it would all land him and except for the disgrace of it I would not care where it landed him. He is a miserable craven coward and a fool and now that the crash has come he is acting a perfect baby and hiding behind tears to ward off all business while Georgia and Robert have to suffer and wait-- and all of them living here on Mother without paying one cent of board because there is nothing to pay with and yet that does not even faze Dr. Woodard. I didn't think we could be so deceived in a man!

My quiet has ended-- I may not even send this letter-- if I do forgive me-- you are my refuge and it is not to complain but that you may understand why I stay here and why I get so upset that I write as I do. Please don't let it get you upset-- but you are and you should know what we know.

All of the family join me in much love -- they were delighted to get your letter but we were sorry you had to write so many in a bunch when there is so little time for you to write.

With a heart full of love

Mother

Hopkinsville,
Feb. 8th.

My Precious Boy:

Your letter came this morning and I have never felt so rebuked as when I read it although I know you did not mean it as such. When I think of you working so hard and being so discouraged at the seeming lack of recognition I ~~xxx~~ could weep my eyes out and to think that I have added any thing to your discomfort and peace of mind makes me too disgusted with myself for words.

I thank you for the check-- how I wish I could return it to you! The fact that I am a burden to you when you work so hard and need the money so much is almost unbearable to me. I shall try to get along with out the check you say you skipped-- just let the Puritan wait until I can make the money somehow. They can wait as well as we and unless it is absolutely necessary I am not going to let you send the check. I wish I could send this one back so it would ease you up some-- my beloved boy.

In your letter you spoke of being an unsatisfactory son-- please don't ever say that again for you know what a joy you are to me and your dependability has been one of the two bulwarks in my life. You said too that I scolded you and I did, but my dear son, if you only knew what I had been through with the last month you would forgive my scolding for the affairs here at home have been almost unbearable. I don't want to worry you but the situation is so dreadful that I must tell you something of it. As you know Dr. Woodard had that stroke of paralysis a month ago-- well there is no doubt it was brought about from worry, for of all the craven cowards I have ever seen he takes the lead. Through all of these years he has been spending, wasting the funds that he has made (?) if any, and worse still his Mother's and his sister's estate over which his poor, silly, demented mother placed him when Mr. Woodard died. It was a big estate, enough to keep them in ease for the rest of their lives and then to leave him and Georgia and Robert in ease also and he has thrown it all away-- and more for he is hopelessly involved in debt and to every body that he could borrow money from-- banks, individuals-- everybody. And Georgia does not know how much it is nor will he talk to her at all. She knows of about \$20,000 of indebtedness and no money left-- notes in bank involving Robert, jeopardizing his farm and stopping work entirely, and with Dr. Woodard in the condition he is of course no one would have him for any surgery, if for any thing at all. He is horribly depressed and ruins the atmosphere of the home the minute he steps in-- and as for money he hasn't any at all to even pay their board so they are all here living on Mother! Georgia is distracted and makes no effort to throw it off-- you simply can't imagine a more depressing nor a more distressing situation. I have heard sighs and moans until I feel that I simply can't listen to another and yet it seems my duty to stay here although it is working havoc with my business. I have to stay with Mother as it is perfectly awful for her. Last night Georgia went over to Pats for a little while and Dr. Woodard walked the floor every minute while she was away, like a caged tiger. He is perfectly awful-- getting well physically, apparently and perfectly simple mentally. I am perfectly disgusted with him and furious that he should have caused the awful wreck he has when he had money and seemed to have some sense. He has concealed everything and lied to Georgia and duped her at every turn and now it is too late for any one to do anything. It's a great pity the stroke wasn't severe enough to take him off and get him out of the situation so Georgia and Robert could act. At least he would have left some insurance and as it is he still withholds all information and is nearly running Georgia crazy for the banks and creditors will force him into bankruptcy-- oh, it's just awful son-- please forgive me if I was unreasonable but I have stood until I can't stand much longer! I will have to get out of it all for a while for I can do nothing but try to cheer up a perfectly cheerless situation, and it's right costly cheering and I am doing it all except for Pats efforts. She as always is faithful and untiring and fine to the 10 degree.

My only outlet is trying to get some business-- maybe I can do that for which I pray God I can do. By a good piece of luck Mary Thompson thinks she has a way to drive down as Arthur has to come on business and wants her

to come with him. She was successful in getting off for two days as they are very nice about letting them off sometimes. They had planned to come today but the weather turned so cold Arthur thought it too cold to make the trip and I was delighted as it is nearly zero today with a light dry snow falling, making the very worst driving to say nothing of the cold Pat went over to Nashville yesterday and said they nearly froze coming home so I am glad Mary T. is not making the trip today but hope she can come later on in the week.

I enclose a letter from ^{her} and also one from Agnes. Not much in either but I know you are interested in hearing all that the family does. As soon as your work lets up a little I am coming to see you again if I have to go hungry to do so. I just can't stand this separation much longer. Not that I mean to complain for even though you have to work so hard I am so thankful you have a job as there are so many who haven't and surely the time will come when your efficiency and your faithfulness will be recognized. Hold on, son, and be brave as you have always been for our only hope is that you and Mary Thompson can keep your health and your jobs and some day maybe things will straighten out for us. I am so sorry for Georgia and Robert but oh so thankful that we are not in the anguish and the uncertainty they are. I want to help her all I can by my presence as that is all that is needed or would be possible-- I try to be brave and to be thankful for what we have and determined to hold on as long as we can and to be so thankful for what we have-- and for no uncertainties.

Georgia and Pat are talking so I can't write against them. Again please forgive me for seeming to be critical-- I was I guess but I have been so troubled to be myself. And please don't let discouragement enter your sweet young soul-- if you were where you could see the mental suffering all around, the financial distress you would think even though you work hard and sometimes thanklessly that after all you are fortunate-- all three of us are in a world filled with sorrow and hurt/

With a heart full of love and again thanking you for the check

M. J. Cole

Louisville
April 12th.

My Dear Son:

My letters are so gloomy I have almost determined to follow your example and cut them out entirely! It is nearly a month since I heard from you in any way-- and such a way! I have never gotten over the disappointment of not seeing you and then to wait a month to hear what it was all about is just too much.

I want to start out early for the days grind but if I don't write in the morning I can't write at all for I am afraid I am facing what so many others are and have done-- failing health and business at the same time. I have not been well for some time and I have a chill when I think of the doctors bill I will have to pay--(if I ever do!). I am not physically able to do the thing I am trying to do and to make bad matters worse there is nothing to be accomplished that I can see. Others seem to be getting business but I can't-- I just haven't the heart and the strength to go after it.

And my eyes have given me so much trouble! Some more glasses necessary and the left eye too inflamed to have them fitted-- altogether it's just too much and when the days go ~~back~~ by, and the weeks and now almost into the months and no word from you sometimes I feel that the burden is heavier than I can continue to bear. Don't stretch the tension too far, son!

Mary Thompson is well but working very hard as they let off a number of the employees out there and that necessitates working overtime and all last week she had to work until seven o'clock each night-- eleven hours is a right long day for a young girl but she does not complain as she is so thankful she could hold her job she is willing to make any effort to keep it. But the fact that she has some social life is all that makes life livable for her and me both. And some times it is hardly that.

The affairs at Mother's are as bad as ever. I don't believe I have ever known three good people to make as many hideous blunders as Georgia and Dr. Woodard and Robert have done and they are certainly paying the penalty. I am afraid Dr. Woodard is a wreck and Georgia's rebellious frame of mind in the early days of his illness did not help him any. You know there are three things that never come back and one is a spoken word and I am afraid she will live to regret many that she spoke to and about Dr. Woodard. She regrets them bitterly now but it is too late-- I fear she has much regret in the future. She tries to dominate the situation and her efforts are pitiful as she is entirely to pieces and Robert lost in a maze of doubt and gloom. When I go home I am completely undone. So there is nothing in life but you and Mary Thompson and when you fail me the light of my life is gone. I wish the life were-- except that she needs me so badly.

If the mail brings me a letter I will not mail this as it is written in desperation. If I do not get the letter you may know you have brought this on yourself-- I hate to worry you but there is nothing left in life but worry and there is no use in trying to write you that I am happy when I am perfectly miserable---frightened to a frenzy!

With love and a heartache

Mother

1600 SOUTH MAIN STREET
HOPKINSVILLE
KENTUCKY

April 28th.

My Precious Boy:

Your letter containing your generous check came days ago. I thank you for the check-- I wish you were as certain about writing as you are about that check as you never fail me in that respect and I want you to know how grateful I am for you and to you. I hope the day may come when you will have that money to spend for yourself as it seems a big burden for one so young to assume-- I try to think of a cheaper way to live but I can't figure it out in justice to Mary Thompson. I hear of cheaper places than the Puritan but when I look into them the accessories run the price up to what we are paying now and when I realize the amount of protection that would be withdrawn from her my heart fails me for I have to leave her and I know she is as well protected at The Puritan as it is possible to be anywhere and my absence in no way affects her safety -- so I cannot see what we would gain by a change and we might lose much.

Your last letter came this morning and I was delighted to get it. I wish you would disabuse your mind of the idea that your letters are ever uninteresting to me and a brief one written as that one was at the office is what I want you to go in for-- just snatches which mean so much more to me than the longer letters written at so great intervals. I was so happy at getting the letter and hope you will do this often.

I came down here Tuesday for several reasons. I had to be here near the first of May so decided to come before then. I had had notice that the tax assessment had been raised and Wednesday was the last day I could offer an objection. I found that it had been lowered at Uncle Will's request last year but he made such a drastic reduction that they would not grant it and it got into my hands too late to do anything about it. This year the appraisal of the house was raised from \$1,900 to \$2,400 and as the lot was not mentioned I did not know what the total was and thought it best to come see about it myself.

I found that the beard of equalization had lowered the value to a total of \$3,500 on the place so they dropped to \$3,400 on my objection. That is still too much but they said it was all they could drop legally so as that is \$300 less than heretofore I guess I should be satisfied and they said that next year I could get it down still lower but not this year. I know so little about matters of that sort and candidly it looks like when the men in the family step in they hurt more than they help (not you) so I have to hoe my own row. Then too, Mrs. Mayes had not paid the rent for March and I did not want it to run into another month as they pay at the end of the month and not at the beginning so I wanted to see her and collect before the first and she said she would pay me Saturday so if she does, these two items will have repaid me for the trip. I had two chances to ride down in cars but one was for early Sunday morning and the other early Monday morning and I had so much work to do which I hope was important, that I thought with the railroad ticket being so cheap I would save by staying over and coming on the train. The fare is \$3.54 and as I always pay part of the automobile expenses the difference of about \$2.00 in cost often does not make up for the inconvenience of fitting my time to others and as there is a long, tiresome detour around by Glasgow it makes the trip most wearing as it takes about seven hours to make it and I am worn out at the end. By coming on the train I come so much more comfortably and so much faster its a temptation to come that way all of the time.

I am so happy at the thought of your coming to be with us the 30th of May. If you haven't a holiday then, why wait? I hoped you would have the holiday and could stay four days but there may be better rates available then. They told me at the L & N office that they were putting on the very cheap rates the last of every month. I just missed one but could not help it-- watch for the cheap rates and catch one, as they are sometimes just half of the regular ticket even as cheap as they are now.

I am delighted that your company did not lose its suit, and while they did not win the case as you said the next best thing was not to have a decision against them and maybe it will be withdrawn. Certainly I hope so-- I did so hate the long hours in the court room for you and the other inconveniences - and I hope now you will have some respite and some time of your own.

1600 SOUTH MAIN STREET

HOPKINSVILLE

KENTUCKY

I wish I could give you a better report of conditions here, but frankly they are deadly! Georgia continues immersed in gloom and will not let any one around forget her and her troubles for a minute. Of course we are all desperately sorry for her and the case seems terribly blue, but no good can be had by constantly grieving and her attitude undermines both Dr. Woodard and Robert and keeps the whole family disturbed to the utmost. Dr. Woodard seems well but is terribly depressed and certainly with reason for his practise has in no way come back (the little he had!) and that has broken him more than the illness. It all quite unfits me for my work and yet I have to come as Mother needs me-- they all do-- but I fear Mother is not well. For the first time in her life she seems nervous and the strain she has been under the last four months has been enough to undermine her entire health. She has aged distressingly and lately has been so lame and these together with the strain of Georgia's attitude and constant complainings have proven most disastrous and I fear the results. There has been a meeting going on at the church and she has enjoyed it immensely but I am afraid it too has been a strain as she goes to every meeting, but it is such a pleasure no one of us likes to interfere with her going. I am glad tonight is the last night although the preacher is one of the best I ever heard.

Pat had a letter from Agnes today telling her she had broken one of the bones in her hand. She caught her hand in the clothes wringer and the hand and arm up to her elbow were carried into the wringer-- she was in the basement alone and had to turn off the current herself and loosen the rollers. Her arm and hand were entirely flattened out and the bone in the little finger snapped in two-- it might have been most disastrous but fortunately her hand was not crushed and she turned off the current in time else her arm might have suffered horribly. We did not tell Mother but the rest of us are so disturbed over it.

I had hoped to get back home Sunday but I have a chance

to close an Annuity Monday, the first, and as I cant get it signed before the first I will have to stay over and get it done ~~then~~ if I can, but I know now I cant until Monday. This morning Ethel came over with a crowd from Clarksville and Mother asked her to come over and spend the day Monday so I am glad I will be here but it is most important that I be back in Louisville the 3rd so I am afraid I am getting in to a jam. I hope not but I do want to get all of the business possible as it has been so long since I really wrote any.

I promised Mother I would write Agnes a note so I must stop. Again I want to thank you for the check-- I hope you know how much joy that check brings and how grateful I am to you for making life so somfortable for us-- and I want you to know how much I enjoy the letters that dont bring checks ! You have gotten into the habit of waiting and writing only that one letter during the month and that is when I complain.

All of the family join me in much love-- I am glad your letter came to me here as they love to hear from you always.

With a heart full of love

M. S. T.

I bought you some socks weeks ago one day at a sale and thought I had sent them to you but found them when I was packing to come down. I will send them as soon as I get back and hope they are not too thick for summer wear. I meant to send them before the cold weather was over, in fact meant to tske them to you when I thoutht I would get out weeks ago and the lawsuit interfered. I am so sorry to have waited so long as I wanted to save you buying any.

Thursday.

1600 SOUTH MAIN STREET
HOPKINSVILLE
KENTUCKY

My Precious Boy:

Just a line to tell you that Dr. Woodard is ~~back~~ better today-- that is the condition is not so critical for he will really never be any better the doctors say. His mind is clear today and he can swallow ~~which~~ he could not do at all until last night and he has slept constantly even when not under the influence of opium. Yesterday Dr. Stone said he might go to sleep and never wake up-- but today that condition seems to have passed and a graver one arisen-- the possibility of a life in a chair or in bed as they say he can never take another step! But his living makes a difference for us right now and unless he gets worse I hope we can carry out our plans as we have made them. It is very necessary that I be back in Louisville next Tuesday and I do so hope you will get there Friday and stay through the 4th of July. Mary Thompson is coming down here Saturday but under the present conditions I don't know how long she will want to stay and she may go back with me Tuesday. But she may stay until Thursday and meet you in L. We both want you more than anything and as I have said before I just can't stand another postponement.

I am glad we did not plan to come here for the holiday for as much as they all want to see you I could not bear to have your short vacation marred by the atmosphere which necessarily exists-- poor Robert looks like he had had a spell of illness. He is lovely with his father-- they are with each other and I don't know what Georgia would have done these last few terrible days but for him. He is so sorry you are not coming down but a visit now could be no pleasure to you and could be a little to him and ~~would~~ it would all be ruined for me so I am just delighted that we planned to stay right there in Louisville together. It all seems to be working out well if Dr. W. continues to improve as I trust he will do.

I want Julia to mail this so must stop.

With a heart full of love in which all of the family join--

Muscle

Please dont change your plans about coming for the 4th. You will not be shortening Mary T's visit here for that is as long as she would want to stay and she much prefers being back in L. by the end of the week. I am sure she will want to go back with me Tuesday. There is nothing doeing here and as soon as she sees the home folks she is ready to go back and I know she will be this time, and I am bound to be back ~~there~~ on Tuesday if possible.

August 10th.

My Precious Boy:

Ten days is a long time to wait to acknowledge a check, isn't it? I hurried as much as I could to get the check to you by the first of August so you would not be embarrassed any further and asked you to let me know if it reached you and although that letter was written the 29th of July I have had no word from you and don't even know if the check reached you. Do you think that is quite fair treatment?

I am in no mood for writing today and will probably end by not sending the letter. I have tried so hard to do the right thing and have had one of those slaps in the face that have come to me so often, always just as I flatter myself that I am beginning to get matters in hand a kind or an unkind fate shows me that I am nothing but a miserable failure. On Monday of this week, Monday morning, I started out with the feeling that for the first time in over six months I was free to work with a clear mind-- nothing ahead nor at home to prevent my giving my entire time and attention to my business which since buying the car is so absolutely necessary. That thought alone is always an invitation to disaster and the disaster never fails to arrive-- I started not to go down town at all but to stay here and finish a lot of odds and ends of business which I did with such dispatch that I was through by the time the morning was half gone. So I decided to go on in town-- I had been having trouble with one ear so Dr. Bell had cautioned me to come back Monday and all of the way in I debated as to which was the best route to take, to get off at Broadway and see him then walk out 4th st. to the two offices or to transfer at Broadway, go to Booker & Kinnaird's and walk back and that was the way I decided upon. I saw several people, went to both offices and having a few minutes before I knew Dr. Bell would close his office I went to see a woman who is and for a long time has been considering an annuity and who had asked me to come to see her that day. I should have waited until after luncheon but did not and in leaving her in my hurry to get to Dr. Bell I turned my ankle and sprained it badly and have been laid up ever since! What the outcome will be I don't know for I simply cannot afford to lose any more time. I have been out in the car a few times alone but have not been able to do much as the excitement of driving rather undermines my sales talk and it was because I was so anxious to take advantage of the lovely day that I was hurrying back to drive a one part of the afternoon to give myself another lesson, in driving alone.

I have no regrets as to buying the car -- every body who has commented says it is the only thing to do and John Stites even went so far as to say he would as soon try to practise medicine without one as to try to do the business I am trying-- I remember Dr. Stites at home urged me when I first went into the insurance business to buy one and said I would never be able to get anywhere without one -- or lose my health in the attempt. I did not do that but I lost much business I now see, in every line I have attempted. And it has been a life saver for Mary Thompson. She looks and feels like a different person since we have been out here and I know now we could not have gotten along without the car here without being such an effort that neither of us could have stood it and I know too that she was doomed if we had stayed at the Puritan much longer. The car is one of the essentials, but how I am to swing it all I can't see-- I almost wish the injury had been one that would have removed me from the scene and left you and her with the protection I am trying so hard to carry for you. I should have some commissions coming in but people are so slow about paying their premiums (fire insurance seems to be largely credit) and my commissions are held out until they do, so I am about to be stranded! Mrs. Mayes is very slow with the rent money, so there again I am up against it for she is the kind that if I complain she will move out as she says that is what she wants to do so she and her children can get a small house and in writing it is so easy to say something that will be misconstrued that I would rather wait than write.

When I was at home I found that the kitchen boiler had burst so had to have a new one put it-- there just seems to be no end to my worries lately and on top of them all to have had this miserable accident which is not only extremely painful and will prove expensive as I did not carry insurance that would protect that kind of an accident, but it is proving most costly from point of time lost. So you can see that I am worried to death.

I have no idea when nor what I wrote you last. Agnes came by for a night and we all went out to Helens and had a most delightful evening as Uncle Baylor was there also and Baylor and Louise. They all asked about you as they always do.

I enclose Georgia's last letter which as usual is full of interest about home affairs. The application she refers to is for the place of Post Mistress at home which she has been working upon for some time. I truly hope she gets it. Fannie Underwood is also a candidate but it seems that in the last election Thomas fought Barkley through his paper in Lexington and thus put a crimp in Fannie's chances. Some one suggested that I try for it and offered to help me but I asked them to throw the same influence to Georgia and suggested she try for it which she is doing but I imagine she has forgotten that the suggestion came from me as she likes to think she does all of the thinking herself-- nor did I ever tell her I sidetracked any possibility for myself so she could have it. At the time she said she would not consider it as Fannie was in the race and she had promised to help her but she found Fannie's chances were poor so she decided to try for it.

Pat and Alf and Alfred passed through yesterday after having been over to Lexington to see about putting Alfred in U. of Kentucky this fall. I am sorry to say I am afraid there is little to Alfred. He has no ambition to learn nor to do anything else-- he is simply girl crazy. He was never satisfied at Duke and although he got through I can't help wondering what he studied to do so for his one interest outside of girls was that Drum Major business and as he had to pass to hold that I am suspicious that the school made his curriculum as easy as possible. Pat and Alf leave all of those things to him and are perfectly blind to his scheming-- his one thought is a good time and it is a pity for Alf would give him much and does but he certainly is not taking advantage of his opportunities.

Frances Ballard, as you know, has come back here to live and is proving a great pleasure to Mary Thompson. Poor child, her social career is a dismal failure! All of her few girl friends have proven themselves perfect "duds" and if Frances proves to be a real one it is the first one she has ever had as all of the giving has been on her side and she has never gotten anything in return until I am sorry to say she has become quite bitter on the subject and leads such a lonely life! I am hoping that out here she will make new friends and some that will mean something to her. She asked Lettie Witherspoon and Frances out tonight to play contract and as a fourth she asked Emily Nichols who although she is one of the Altshelers has been nice to Mary T. and she wanted to ask one of their old club but did not want to ask Frances Mayes as she has carried that dead load long enough and I am afraid Frances will be offended as she seems to be anyhow since we moved. Mrs. Mayes told me she thought we were making a big mistake to make the move and unless Mary T. shows France every partiality in asking girls to ride home when she goes in the car as she sometimes does she sees a change in Frances' manner toward her. We have had her out twice but having some one for Lettie who as you know lives there in the Pyritan, and at night, will be sure to offend both Frances and Mrs. Mayes. But I can't help it-- I know Frances has been a disadvantage to Mary Thompson all along and has had nothing to offer in return except an occasional meal when I was away. Mrs. Mayes was smart enough to keep that going and tried to keep us under obligations all of the time by always asking Mary T. when I was away but as to anything else socially it was not forthcoming.

I must stop and get my foot up. John Stites said for me to keep it elevated and as I had to go down town and walk around quite a bit today it is hurting me badly so I must get it up.

I hope you will write soon. If you had any idea of the panic that siezes me often you would not ever keep me in suspense. It really is a pity for an old woman to have to keep on working and at my age to know that I just cant stop. Nellie is late so I must even add cleaning up to the other things I have had to do today-- I dont mind the pain but I am in an agony of suspense for fear of falling as I feel so unbalanced. I had no insurance as it is so expensive to carry, that kind, and even if I had had I probably would have paid out more than I could get back as being up and around would make the disability partial which would mean only half and if I had had to say what my earnings the last year have been I fear the protection would not have been much as it is rated accordingly. I hope I would have paid out more than it is going to cost me as I am going to the doctor as little as possible. I trust tomorrow will be the last time.

With a heart full of love and hoping to hear from you soon

M. Stites

THE WILSHIRE
2043 DOUGLASS BOULEVARD
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

Sept. 9th.

My Precious Boy:

I dont remember when I wrote to you! I am sure it was some days ago and before Labor Day. I have wondered how you spent that day and if you did as you said you were hoping to do -- take the two or three days and spend them quietly playing golf at the quiet place you told me about but the name I have forgotten. I hope you did have a pleasant little holiday even if you did not spend it that way.

Mary Thompson went to Chicago as I wrote you she was planning to do. She is always good about writing and as I was at home I got two letters from her, one written from Chicago and the other after she got back here as I was gone a day longer than she. I enclose the letters as they tell quite freely what she did, and I havent seen any one who got as much out of the Fair as she did nor who had a better time. She is most enthusiastic about it and I am so glad she could go and could get the advantage of such a cheap trip. She is not very well having caught one of her usual fall colds-- I do wish she could get over them. She went to see Frank Stites this morning and he gave her a prescription to relieve her nose and throat and some directions which I hope will give her relief.

I spent four days at home and they were busy days! I hate to write you about them but I know I should keep you posted as to all that happens to us-- I just have to do that! As I wrote you Mrs. Mayes said they would have to give up the house, and they did the first of the month. I knew they were keeping it very badly but how badly I had no idea until it was vacated, and such a mess as I found! No human would have rented it until something was done to it for the paper down stairs was so dirty and upstairs hopeless. And the bathroom a filthy wreck-- so I had Mr. Hisgen clean the wall paper down stairs and repaper the ceilings as they were beyond cleaning. Georgia had had the work done and she has such queer ideas of economy and always has some cheap person who can do everything just as well as the best and there is no telling what her method has cost me as she attend to all of these things when I am away. The paper had been cheaply hung and everywhere the paste had been smeared on the paper the cleaner left horrible spots so there was nothing to do but repaper the ceilings and if I can rent the house I will have to do a lot of papering upstairs but I will not do that until it is rented. But in order to show it to any one I thought the down stairs should be presentable and that required paper. The bath room was a wreck-- perfectly filthy as to the painted woodwork and the plastering falling off in great hunks so I had that plastered and papered. There were a number of places in the house where the plastering had fallen and the roof leaking and in none of these cases had the McCords said a word-- they made few requests but I certainly regret that they felt so little the need of reporting things that were really damaging the house by neglect. The furnace was in bad shape as it always is in the fall so I had that cleaned and put in repair ready for winter and as the front of the house was perfectly awful looking I had that washed off and am having a little painting done-- the new posts which were put up after the balustrade was taken off were showing down to the grain of the wood as they had only one coat of paint and thanks to Hershel Long's bad job of fixing the porch roof the paint had run down and ruined the paint on the cornice of the porch so I

had one coat of paint put on the ^f porch floor which had to be repaired right in front of the front door and the cornice painted so I hope the looks will be improved. But with the down stairs walls clean, the ~~ba~~ bath room in nice condition and the furnace also and everything about the place even to the back fence perfectly clean it is in condition to show any one but in my hurry to get it rented I am afraid I lost a good renter by showing it when it was only half clean and the walls awful looking. I hope I can get a renter for the loss of that \$30 a month is very greivous to me. And in all it will cost me about \$75 to get the necessary work that I have mentioned done. I got it well under way while I was there-- had all of the cleaning done, the furnace fixed and the bath room platered, ~~a~~ leaving the hanging of the paper and the painting in Mr. Hisgen's hands as he is perfectly reliable and working by the job and not on time. If I can get a good renter even the cost and the loss of the rent for the present will not be the great misfortune as the McCords were ruining the house and bringing down the atmosphere so I am glad to be rid of them. I wish I could sell the house now that it is in good shape. What do you think of it and if you approve what do you think we should ask for it? The taxes are over \$100 a year and insurance about \$20.00 and as I have been able to get only \$30 a month or \$360 a year that leaves only \$240-- then take from that the \$75 the work I had to do to get it in shape to show to any one at all or to hope to rent it leaves \$165 profit at most-- and if I could get only \$3,500 for it invested at four and three quarter percent it would bring that much. And what I am living in dread of is a new furnace as each year Mr. Kharlton says he can't make it last another winter and when you consider it has been in there for nineteen years you know he is right. He might be able to save it by getting new parts which he said would cost nearly \$100. And thanks to some more of Georgia's bad advice when I had the roof painted last fall the second time since we left as Dad had neglected it until it was almost past saving and I am paying for that too--she had an ugly old negro paint it to save about \$6.00 and you could never tell it had been painted but it can go until spring. So you see there is begining to be almost no profit as it is and I fear another year another coat of paint will be necessary both to rent and to save the house so as we would never want to live in that house again I am for selling it even if we can't get a big price which we want now but keeping it we are sure to pay a bigger one so I am in favor of selling it. I wish I had known that one of the professors in the High School was in the market for a house as he bought the old Long place next to Virginia Street school a few days ago, so there are buyers and if you are willing I think I shall go after one. Please let me hear from you by return mail as Alf is coming up ~~tomorrow~~ Monday for a banker's convention which lasts until Wednesday and I want to discuss the matter with him. He was in Chicago while I was at home and I had no chance to talk with him but I guess he will stay out here with us and I will have an abundant chance to talk it all over and I hope he can suggest a buyer. Please let me know what you think by return mail.

The weather continues deadly hot-- I never felt a hotter day than today. I am without a cook as Nelie just walked out on us but since the cut in income I am going to try to do without a cook this fall--I would not mind if only the hot weather would let up as it will in a few short time I am sure. I have a chance to ride down home Friday and Mary Thompson wants to drive over to Lexington to see about some Sorority plans which I hope will be an advantage to me (a Hopkinsville girl), and I am going to Chicago the next week end so I am glad not to have the expense and the care of a cook then and if we can tide over until cool weather I am going to try it until we get a new renter or sell the house. If I had known all of this I would not have bought the car but there is no doubt it makes business a different thing (as well as all of the rest of life) but I bought it for business and I wonder now how

THE WILSHIRE
2043 DOUGLASS BOULEVARD
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

I ever got along without it. Living out here we could not have gotten along and when I drive down town I wonder how we ever stood the dead air-- it feels compressed after leaving here--and I know Mary Thompson's health was suffering-- but living anywhere it makes all the difference and I know several policies I have sold by going to see the parties that I could never have closed without seeing the people and many others I hope to close. There are so many shyster insurance men who delight in trying to make people, teachers in particular, believe that this automobile insurance is not legal or standard and by seeing people and talking with them I can convince them it is and in several instances I have saved the case by seeing them face to face. Each one of these policies pays me about five dollars but it will take all of my August commissions to pay my own insurance and the speed with which I get my commissions rests entirely with the speed with which the premiums are paid as my commissions are held out until the premiums are paid so it may be months until I get any more pay. One nice commission enabled me to make the first payment on the car so I was hoping I could pay for it that way and could have by the strictest economy if the house had not been vacated and so much expense added. But I am going to save every penny and do without everything possible for I would rather have the car than anything money can buy and I know it means much to Mary Thompson from point of health. Poor child, she has absolutely no social life! I feel so sorry for her for she might as well be in the heart of a desert as here in Louisville-- her friends (if she ever had any-- have all married or gone away except Arthur who had turned out to be a perfect cad and she hasn't seen him since we moved out here nor any one else, for that matter. I am greatly distressed about it but of course don't discuss it with her but it is a great pity for a lovely young girl to have no friends and ~~no~~ no dates at all - and that is what is happening for she sits here night after night and sees no one and as for telephone calls them have simply ceased for her. It is dreadful and I do so dread the winter for her.. she has felt so badly lately she doesn't seem to mind but in her heart I know she is deeply humiliated that there is no one interested enough to ever call or get up a game of bridge or anything. She has arranged a few dates when Frances or one of the girls stay with her but she has gotten so she will not do that as she says she will not ask boys for dates when they never ask her and of course I think she is right but it is making life very deadly for her. If we didn't have the car to get her away sometimes I don't know what would be the result.

I must stop and take a bath-- I am burning up! Please don't fail to answer right away-- With a heart full of love in which Mary Thompson would join me if she were here--

Marta.

August 29th.

My Precious Boy:

I am too tired tonight to try to write but it seems so long since I wrote to you that I am going to write a note if no more.

Did I ever write you about the golf clubs? I called every where and no one had them but one place referred me to the Pro at the Shawnee Golf Club and he said he could order them for you and would send you a price list. Did you get it? I know nothing of him so candidly I would be afraid to let him order them but I am a long time giving that advice and you may have done so already. It was the only place here I could get any line at all-- he says he uses them all of the time and would be the only one here who could get them for you.

I enclose another clipping which I found in the paper a few days ago. It had an interesting slant so I send it on to you. What developments have come up about your job-- any?

We have never mentioned the matter of Mary Thompson's going out to spend Labor Day with you so I suppose you went ahead with your own plans-- I hope you are going to get a few days rest palying golf as you suggested when you were here. The C & O would put on a wonderful rate just when none of us could use it! There is one of those very cheap week end rates to Chicago over Labor Day so Mary Thompson and Frances Ballard are going. I wish you could go as every one should see this exposition if possible and although we have no money to waste I think Mary T. should go especially as she can go for the small amount of \$19.00, including R.R.fare, tickets to the exposition and many other features! I have the good fortune to be going with an Equitable party at no expense the 26th of the month-- isn't that grand? So I am so glad Mary T. is going and I wish you were too. Can't you go before it is over?

I am going home for the week end as I regret to tell you our renters are giving up the house! Mrs. Mayes said some time ago she was afraid they would have to but I had hoped against hope that they would not but they are moving the first of Sept. so I must go to see about it. Georgia has advertised it but I have grave fears as to the results. I wish we could sell it, don't you? But alproperty is so low I know we can't do so now.

I am working hard trying to make up for the rent and I am trying to make the car justify itself. Already I have sold several small policies as a direct result of the personal contact-- sold where another agent had almost closed so if that will keep up there is no doubt it is the thing to have done-- for the first rule in selling is to sell oneself and I am glad to say I have little difficulty in doing that and fortunately I have a good proposition to offer and one that saves the prospect on a necessary expense so it is an easy one to present. The thing is seeing the people and that is what I hope to make the car do as doing it otherwise was an impossibility.

I enclose two letters from Georgia. Did you ever write to Robert? They are both so sensitive and would never mention it to me if you had not but I have never seen any one as sensitive and as bitter as Georgia. Except Mary Barbour-- Robert Johnson has proven himself a most unnatural son and has kept Mary in a state of the greatest unhappiness ever since Bob died as well as for weeks beforehand. There is no doubt he did everything to keep her from California which to me is the most unnatural thing I ever heard of. She felt it keenly and wrote some one up here that she was coming back to Hopkinsville to live in the fall as she could not be a drawback to a "wandering novelist" and he hasn't wandered out of San Francisco since he first went out until she wrote that she was going to him and straightway he began to get ready to wander! Bah, it makes one sick-- such ingratitude. Thank God I know nothing of it! I tell Georgia she has much to be thankful for but she will not see it-- but in my heart I fear for her future too".

I must stop and run up to the corner and mail this. I miss the mailing conveniences of the Puritan but that is all. We are both just delighted with the change and wish we had made it long ago. But the car makes it possible--otherwise it would be quite a hardship. Mary Thompson looks and seems much better and I hope will continue to improve. I hope you did not alter your plans for the week end on account of what she said about going out. With such cheap rates it is a shame we can't get together but I must go to Hopkinsville and ~~it~~ this will be her only chance to go to Chicago-- and I do hope you have arranged something for the week end.

With a heart full of love and gratitude--

Mary

March 5th.

My Precious Boy:

I had hoped to have a letter from you today as your telegram said you were writing that night. I was sorry you telegraphed because the banking situation had caused me to abandon any idea of going to you. I should have written to you but somehow everything seemed so upset and most of the time I was so busy that I let the time slip by without doing so. I am sure no one understands how that could be more than yourself.

I am wondering how this is affecting you. It came near being very disastrous to us. I was very busy all day Tuesday and did not realize I was so nearly out of money and heard not one word of the impending holiday at the bank so failed to get any money-- not only that but spent all I had in my purse, thinking I could get a check cashed Wednesday morning. You can imagine my consternation when the paper announced that there was a holiday of all the banks and I had fifteen cents and two car checks in my purse-- and that was all the money we had! I decided to stay here all day and do some work here and save that fifteen cents and the car checks until the next day when I could go down to the office and to the bank for-- fortunately I had a small check which I had not deposited on Tuesday as I started to do and changed my mind. I drew that out on Wednesday and the small 5% which I was allowed so we are not penniless and we have plenty to eat so we can manage for a while and I trust until the banks open again. I hope this will not last very long but if it does something will have to be done to relieve people and we will be among those I guess, although we can run for a while.

I had not made any definite plans as to going out the 3rd, but thought as the cheap rates were on it would be such a good chance to get to see you. I am sorry I could not go for there is no telling now when we can get together but I am glad I was saved the expense as we will need all of the money we can get-- all of us will I fear for some time to come.

I send you two of Georgia's letters as you asked me to keep you posted as to Dr. Woodard's condition-- they tell you better than I can how he is. The situation is most distressing but you can see by Georgia's last letter, written Friday that even though she is so worried she does not forget the interests of the rest of us and is willing to help us all she can which I shall not accept as they are in bad straits themselves and as Mother has to take care of the whole crowd I have no right to ask her for any help even though it would be a loan. The whole situation is most distressing and I am afraid Robert had had a very poor part in helping to alleviate it. I had another letter from Georgia which I seem to have misplaced in which she says he drives over to Clarksville every day to watch the prizing of the tobacco they are putting up! Norman Smith offered to pay him to do the work he did last year but from a strained sense of duty they refused and now Robert must go over every day to see it done-- its just too absurd in the face of conditions and Georgia doing without everything possible and agonizing over the whole affair as she does. Robert grabs at any straw to get out and go anywhere-- picture shows, anything and as to saying at the farm, Georgia is kidding herself for Pat writes that he stays only a short while each day and comes back to town for lunch every day. He stays at Mother's every night, sleeping until nine o'clock every morning and has to be almost dragged out of bed then. Georgia has the entire burden to bear and the one point that seems to hurt worse than any other is that Robert is so involved-- and he is but at thirty two a man is old enough not to become so involved-- you would think he was a baby who had been defrauded out of its rights instead of a man Robert's age he ought to have known better. I can see no future for them except for Robert to brace up and be a man and not the baby he has acted ever since Dr. Woodard was taken ill. And he is a hopeless wreck-- Dr. W. I am afraid. Not any part of a business man to begin with, how he can now, an ill and broken man, do in times like these what he was not able to do in prosperous times and when he had his health and all of his faculties is more than I can see. I do feel so sorry for Georgia having him to care for-- well physically and nothing mentally and out of his line of business, utterly unable to earn one dollar-- its just too bad and an awful calamity that he did not have a bad enough stroke to take him off right then. That sounds hard but it would have been a merciful relief to Georgia if he had.

Mary Thompson is out with the Arthur tonight. He came by this afternoon and asked her to ride out to the camp where they spent so much time last summer. He is a queer and unsatisfactory beau-- comes when he likes, then waits days to come again which I am sorry to say grieves her very much. But let another man appear and he is all attention and Friday night a lovely young fellow named Debmán, so like Lawson it is right uncanny-- asked her to go to the Kentucky Hotel to dance and last night Fred Plunk asked her to do the same and Arthur was right here today and until tonight and had much to say about her going out to dance. Last Sunday afternoon she had a few friends in to meet Mrs. Mays' niece from China and as she had a date with Fred Plunk she asked him whether date for the tea. She asked Arthur to bring one of the Altsheler girls and told the girl first and the minute she told Arthur I saw he did not like the arrangement with Emily but he could do nothing but he wasn't a bit nice to her when they got here. Mary T's friend Robbie whom she likes very much but does not see very often she had asked to the tea and he was the first one to arrive so as Fred was late Mary T. put Robbie to work and when Arthur got here Robbie was back in the kitchen helping to do the honors and it knocked Arthur out completely so he took his seat on the radiator in the dinette and there he stayed until Robbie left where he could see him every minute! He never loses sight of Mary T. a minute when there is another man around but when he thinks there is not he is indifference itself. Friday night he came in without a date of course as she had the one with "Deb" as they call him for ten o'clock. Well, Arthur sat and sat and begged her to go to a show with him, tried to get her to call Deb-- tried to wait until Deb got here and as she made him leave so she could dress. He pretended he did not know anything about the plans for that night except that he had a date to play bridge and broke it and the first thing Deb said when he came in was that the crowd was smaller than he thought it would be for he had called Arthur and asked him to take a girl and he had some work he had to do at the office and could not possibly get away! And he had been sitting here all evening and had not been out of this apartment fifteen minutes when Deb came in. Of course we did not tell him so he still thinks Arthur had business on hand that night. But often he is so indifferent and I am afraid Mary Thompson is deeply interested and one can't blame her for he is one of the most attractive people I ever knew and I am perfectly devoted to him. In many ways he reminds me very much of you and to me he has been a lovely young friend and advisor-- I really feel quite dependant upon him and his manner to me is so lovely and protective-- too much so to be good for Mary T's interests I fear as that is not a usual combination. But it is her affair and I keep hands off-- I know she is safe with him and he really does much for her pleasure and he is so charming and so cultured and so attractive she is improved always by the association. Frances came in as they did and all of them satyed for a very simple supper and during the meal Mary T. interrupted me while I was talking, then stopped immediately and apologized-- Arthur said "that is something you do frequently, Tommie, interrupting your mother and I want you to quit it-- for she is much more interesting than you are any how!" Of course that was just fun but it is his constant attitude toward me-- he and I have much in common and I enjoy him always and am sorry when they don't get along but some how there is something lacking although at times he seems very much in love with her and I fear she is with him. But he is not established in his business and not happy in his work as he is a graduate lawyer and wants to go into the practise of it but having a salaried position does not dare give it up and is in no position to be in love.

I must stop and go to bed. I am anxious to know what tomorrow will bring forth in the Insurance world. I see in the paper today that the Western Fire Insurance Underwriters have been instructed not to settle for fire until the thirty and in some instances sixty days grace offered the companies by the contract. Arthur said last night that he had had orders not to close any business at all so I am wondering what the President's proclamation tonight will do to business of all kinds. I wish you could have heard his address over the radio-- it was splendid and I do hope he can do something to relieve the awful condition the country is now in. If he does he will be an idol and a hero-- he may not be able to do anything but at least he has a heart and a desire to help the country which are more than his glum predecessor had! I am truly thankful he is out of the picture-- he has got a way showed how little the people think of him. He must have acted an awful sour face for his expression to have received as much comment as it did from the radio announcer.

With fondest love and hoping to have a letter tomorrow--

Mother



—(Drawing by George Joseph.)

Tyrant of the Loose Floors

Tobacco sales in Hopkinsville were run by the cussin' and the fussin' of irate Uncle Jimmy

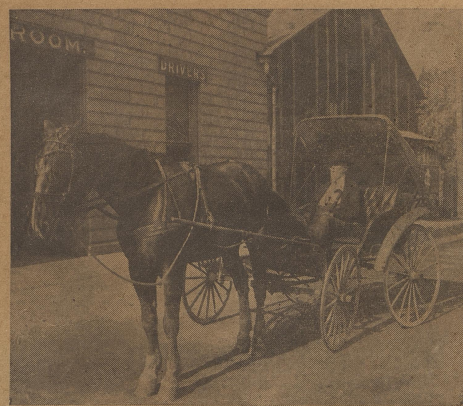
By WAYMAN THOMASSON

THIS is the saga of Uncle Jimmy Thompson, the frasciole but beloved tyrant, who used his sparkling gift for profanity to establish the Hopkinsville loose floor tobacco market under the vengiveness of the Night Riders.

It was in December, 1907, that the Riders came to town, burning warehouses, whipping tobacco men, and shooting up things in general. Uncle Jimmy was an old man then, but he stomped the streets and shook his famous cane in the faces of every group of men he met, challenging them. If they were the secret Riders, to approach his floor.

The "floor" had been a livery stable only a few days previously, but now it was Hopkinsville's first loose floor, because Uncle Jimmy had given the Riders a good cussin' and decided to establish a new type of market. Of course he had set up a Springfield rifle at the front door and the back door, but it was generally known that a thorough cussin' from Uncle Jimmy was far more to be feared than any newfangled guns. The rifles occupy a glass case on display at a Hopkinsville floor today.

The Riders came to destroy the warehouses of the great tobacco companies because they were opposed to a manner of selling, which, they claimed, forced prices under the cost of production. They sought to establish a co-operative associa-



Uncle Jimmy Thompson drove a horse 30 years old without regard for stop lights.

tion, but the stalwart figure of Uncle Jimmy barred their way. Hopkinsville sold only dark-fired tobacco then, and Uncle Jimmy made it the largest market of its kind in the world.

Without Malice

For sixty-six years he was the most terrifying and yet the most satisfactory influence in a community which depended upon tobacco for its livelihood. Bankers, police commissioners and preachers alike quaked before the awful whirlwind of his inspired profanity and high-handed tyranny. He was arrested once for insulting an officer, but a perspiring police judge so valued under his colorful barrage of oaths that he gave orders if the man could be got out of there then he should never be brought back again on any charge short of murder. Citizens considered it a matter of pride that it was a new officer who took Uncle Jimmy in, or it would never have happened. Uncle Jimmy bore malice toward no man alive, it was pointed out.

The loose floor Uncle Jimmy started thirty years ago is still operated today under his name—Thompson's Loose Floor. The new owner, J. E. Cooper, was his young partner, but only one of the prominent tobaccoists here who learned the game under Uncle Jimmy's tutelage. Buyers and brokers alike took orders from

Uncle Jimmy during the fifteen years he was on the loose floor market.

If he did not like the way the sales were going, he would stop the auctioneer and give the buyers a thorough cussin'. If that didn't loosen them up, he would give the auctioneer a good cussin' and then they would all knock-off for the day.

Always Ran Stop Lights

All buyers have private signs indicating their bids to the auctioneer. Uncle Jimmy didn't fool with signs. He jabbed the auctioneer on the leg with his huge cane, sometimes until the skin came off. In after years all Hopkinsville sales were enlivened by the sight of a harassed auctioneer dodging Uncle Jimmy's cane between bids. He was not above giving a good jabbing to a lagging buyer, either.

Once a young buyer, L. B. Cornette (now prominent on the Hopkinsville market), was left at the sales while his boss went out. Thundering several magnificent oaths a few minutes later, Uncle Jimmy demanded to know where the buyer was. On being told that he had gone out and Mr. Cornette was in his place, Uncle Jimmy demanded to give young Cornette a good cussin', winding up with "You ought to have gone with him, the way you're buying." Not then understanding Uncle Jimmy's lack of malice, Cornette left then and went back to the factory.

Uncle Jimmy immediately stopped sales and went over after him personally. Then he proceeded to give him a better cussin', explaining that he didn't mean anything by the first one. They came back to the sales arm in arm.

Even with the coming of automobiles, Uncle Jimmy continued to drive Old Kate, his 30-year-old mare, in a buggy of almost equal age. His utter disregard for stop signs and modern traffic methods endeared him more with his God-fearing, law-abiding public. Besides his profanity, Uncle Jimmy's shining characteristic was his unquenchable spirit. In later years, the old mare had a queer, lolling gait so that every step she took on her aging legs looked as if it would topple her over on her nose. Uncle Jimmy would drive her complacently through a red light while puzzled motorists jammed on their brakes and blew their horns. It was all one to Uncle Jimmy and no policeman dared to tempt his genius for expetive. Old Kate, specially prepared food, stopped up to suit her taste. Pictures of Uncle Jimmy in his buggy, drawn by Old Kate, adorn almost every loose floor in Hopkinsville.

Unlimited Overdrafts

It is unheard-of at the opening of a local market for someone not to come on the passing of Uncle Jimmy who, fifteen years, is a lively legend. Tales of his deeds are now told with a fond reverence as if to say the likes of him will not pass our way again. He would buy huge quantities of tobacco and overcheck his account any number of thousands of dollars in payment. Then he would give his frantic and protesting banker a good cussin' and threaten to transfer his account. Reminded once that he didn't have any money in the bank, but only a \$20,000 overdraft, he remarked, "Well, then, ——— it, transfer that." Uncle Jimmy never failed to make good an account.

He was vigorous to the very end and had the following to say to J. W. "Judge" Hancock (now president of the Hopkinsville Tobacco Board of Trade) on the day of his death: "You know, Judge, I went to see Doc Brown about this ——— eye of mine the other day, and I told him I had been having a little trouble with it. Guess what that ——— old fool told me. He said the ——— thing had been out for at least three months."

Uncle Jimmy, who would buy some of anything anyone had to sell, bought huge quantities of country ham and other cured meats. In his last days, when he was 86 years old and could barely eat, his table was set with enough fine meats to feed a small army. He would sit at table alone, and no one knew what became of it unless, as most suspected, he gave it to the poor. His dimmest eccentricity, however, was his handmade, square-toed shoes, which Judge Hancock swears to this day were a foot and a half long. "Woe be to the man, though, that noticed them in Uncle Jimmy's presence."

The PURITAN APARTMENTS LOUISVILLE



Thursday- the 7th of Dec

My precious Boy:

I cannot help feeling disappointed at not hearing from you since I got home after my delightful and satisfying visit with you and Gladys. Each day I have looked for a letter and hope to find one on my return home today- I know you are terribly busy and tired at night- but even with that a line would help me a lot! I had Gladys' letter yesterday- she is good about writing but even with that its not you!

She tells me you are sailing the 14th- much as I hate the thought of your really leaving I will be glad when you are settled as I know the uncertainty is wearing both on you and Gladys- the 14th is not far off and again I wish you the best of success and luck in your big undertaking. I would be more grieved about your going if I didn't know you are capable of doing the job and I believe its your big chance. Try to make it that dearie- big chances dont come to every one and this came to you not through luck but through the recognition of your own ability to do the job so my prayers and my best wishes are with you every minute.

Gladys writes that you will sail on the "West Humbow"- or that is the way I read it- please let me know if that is not correct. I want to know every move, of course.

There is little of interest to write you- I have been here sending down the remainder of the furniture and getting some cheap rugs which I could not get at home. When these are placed the apartment will be ready for occupancy and is going to be most attractive- I hope. Jabbie and Henry will be there this week and please God they take it- if not I am swamped! I hear a lot of the demand by the tobaccoists but I have not yet been able to locate one. I am leaving at noon getting home on the I.C.- a new train put on- at six tonight so I will be there when the men get in as they do not usually come until just before the sales which start the 12th. So you see next week is a very vital one in my life and I trust a lucky one from the house standpoint and an important one for what it means to you- my dear, dear son.

I hope the trunk finally got there all right- please get it as the books I sent are in it! Hope it helps out some- sorry I had to send it collect but I just had to!

Love to Gladys - I will answer her letter from Hopkinsville as soon as I can. Mary Thompson is well again and looks fine- she will write to you before you leave- she is very busy and not the best about writing but I know you know how to sympathize in that peculiarity! She sends much love to you both. She was so glad for you to use the trunk.

With a heart full of love- and hoping, hoping, hoping there is a letter waiting for me at home when I get there tonight or if not there will be not later than SUNDAY-- and hoping the best of every

thing for you, my beloved-- again with a heart full to bursting with the love that only a Mother knows---

I can never tell you how much I enjoyed being with you in Akron- I felt as if I had recapture d something precious thta had slipped out of my life- I havent lost it again , have I? Nothing gives me the secure feeling as your love and support - lately I have missed it terribly but those precious evenings in Akron are still with me and I trust with you- I remember them with a glow unspeakable and I yearn for the feeling to continue in your heart as well as mine. Without meaning to be sacreligious - please read Romans 8-38-39 and substitute the word Mother in place of God and remember it as true as the text. God planned it that way from the beginning.

I trust you will make a practise of reading the little Bible- its really a great comfort and a great text book.

Mother

I will write you from Pat's just what success I Have- will have to stay there until I rent that Apt. I hate to be so unsettled just before you leave- after Sunday send letters air mail here- Mary Thompson will read them and send on to me and in that way I will get them as soon as if sent to Hopkinsville I believe. Any how its the best chance to hear quickly- unless I notify you differently. Send any letters you may write here to the Puritan until Sunday - sent airmail special Sunday will reach me in Hopkijsville Tuesday- and if I am here it will ~~also~~ be kept here forme.

Monday Morning

My precious Ba: -

I feel like one
suspended in pure air this morning!
I fear the next message from you
will be that you are on the way! - I'm
glad. Little she said you would
start the 14th, but as you did not
mention it I am wondering if there is
another delay -

I am staying in the
apartment as I wrote you - as is all business
and comfort - I am safe in a letter
box - it is also about to leave it - the
tobacco man who mails, just finished. Has
not come in yet -

I do not have a letter
tomorrow will write you as the day begins
so you can have one more message -
by the way -

When you sleep the house
is full of sleep - don't fail to send me

from house this and my old tan
shoes - sorry I go the shoe as it's
an in real comfort - and don't
fail to put some things with the
boxes!

Now I wish you could all
go together again by you and
Gladys leave - its too bad we
are so indeed separated - I know Mary
Thompson feels in trouble a lot, but I
just had to come down here as this
time - Johnie came by yesterday and they are
going to Braden's tomorrow - would like
to see you the ap. for April but they
want to see the price and I am not
going to do that for any one - certainly not
for just 3 months - as this will leave
again the middle of July -

There is no family auto - as
a small little - he had one and

good one - but I imagine he is
losing ground all the time - the end
seems to a great degree - The
family are much about you both -
all are proud of what you
have accomplished - and all think
it a wonderful opportunity -

I am so glad you could so
tell - do fight it - I have the
letter containing the note which
you intended -

This is a stupid letter - I just
feel that I had to write so you
would hear again -

All the family join me in
much love to you both - with a
heart very true from your
Mother

The PURITAN APARTMENTS LOUISVILLE



Monday Morning.

My dear Children:

Just one more word hoping it will reach you before you sail which Gladys' letter this morning says again will be Tuesday or Wednesday- so I am sending this to the ship as it wouldn't reach you at the Hotel if you leave early Tuesday.

It's just to say good bye again- and to wish you both Godspeed. It's a long journey but I am sure both of you will enjoy it, and it's a big change in your lives and I am sure both of you will enjoy that. But the opportunity for success is the big thing and that I do not doubt and also the opportunity to see at least a part of the world- that's wonderful. I am not letting myself grieve over your going (as long as the time of your stay is limited!) because I want you both to have the advantages the position offers both in experience and in rank. For you, my dear son, it may mean everything and I wish for you the very best of success and luck in every line. The success you have earned but the luck you cannot control so I am trusting good luck will follow you all the way.

I will be looking for a parting message which I am sure will have reached me before you receive this.

With a heart full of love for you both and again every good wish for a good voyage and a happy landing and all success-- in all of which Mary Thompson joins me---

Mother