

Saturday Morning.  
Feb. 6-43

Dear Son:-

Belive it or not, I am too all in to write las night and friday, I will drop this note to ~~tell~~ you that I got your two cards and letter and then to see if this mail gets thro to you all right.

Miss Weirsmith's recommendation came yesterday evening and I haven't even opened it yet to see what she said. I suppose I will have to wait on Morrells and then maybe not get it. Maybe it would be good to get Welshon's too.

It rained here yesterday and turned to snow last night and now it is blowing a regular gale. I am so glad that you found a Full Gospel church and was invited out for supper. Tell me about where you will stay, what kind of town and what your barracks are like. Tell me everything. How is your money business coming? Are you keeping enough on hands to come home in case you get the chance, this is worrying me.

Well I must catch the next buss and I am hardly able to go. I am glad this is Sat. I phoned your prayer request in to Staton last nightat the church. Welshons is filling the pulpit in Des Moines for Smith while he is in Cuba. Aunt Lillie wrote that she listens to them every Sunday and is going to listen to Welshons.

Well I must go darling. God Bless you dear and fill your heart with the joy of the Lord. Bless you now my darling. and Good by.

Sister Noland called last night and I was trying to iron, finished at 10:30. She said to accept her love and regards.

Mother  
+  
Bobby



Ottumwa, Iowa.  
Sunday Afternoon.

Feb. 6-43

Dear Angel of My Heart:-

I know that you must have had a wonderful day at church today. I have had you on my mind every minute of the day although I have had a busy day of it too but not at church. I got up and had breakfast about 11 and then started into the days work. I washed out some clothing and cleaned up because Jack and his wife was coming to take the car out. We, that is, Jack and I drove up and got her which is just below Edith's and Avinells and then we went to Eldon, Batavia and down to Fairfield and back. Oh, yes I had him to stop at Clark's and have things checked up. I didn't get any gas because Mr. Clark didn't think that the tank would hold four gallons. Well it registered just half full after our ride and getting back home.

Jack is just crazy to come out here to live but I don't know how the house registered with Betty. However I don't care because it is my home you know and anyone that don't like it can lump it. Jack stopped at the Maid Rite in Fairfield and got me two hamburgers and a coca cola and got Bobby one. He just loves dogs and Bobby took to him right off the bat. I will see him in the store tomorrow and we will know more about how Betty likes it and whether they will want to come or not. Jack does, in fact he would like to be one of my boys very much. I am sure you will like him and is he ever proud of his little baby daughter. She is a nice baby but certainly is not pretty, she is seven months old. Her mother is very sensible with her for a young mother. Jack has two other brothers in the service. Betty is not the wild modern type, she does not, or didn't have her fingernails painted and her lip stick was so natural that you could hardly tell that she had any on, she is very very neat. She is just a small town girl like Ottumwa, she is from Joliet, Ill. Jack has to stand guard duty again tonight. The base has just received 140 new fellows from New Orleans. He has just been in service since Oct too. I know that he will fit in just fine and said that on his time off that he would help me do so many things around the home. You will like him, he is not a fellow of many words ~~was~~ but seems to mean what he does say.

Betty is young and alive enough to brighten up the home and keep it clean and in shape while I am gone. Well so much for them.

I got your two cards and your two letters and was I ever happy to hear from you at your new place and to learn of your being in the pastor's home and that he had a little girl as sweet as Dola Mae. She was a sweet little thing wasn't she? Lavina is a nice sensible girl too. Better than all people is the fact that you have found a full Gospel church and I know that you are going to be so happy in attending it.

Your letter was post marked Feb. 4th 10 A.M in Kentwood and I got it Sat. That looks like much better mail service than you got out at Grangeville to me and will I be ~~is~~ glad if you do have it that way. I hope that you get my letters as promptly. There are some letters to you waiting at Grangeville, I hope you get them soon, they tell of Frank Harry's sudden death. Then Madge Well's brother was killed when walking home from a neighbors, he was going down the railroad track and the train whistled and whistled but he was deaf and didn't hear it but he sure felt it because it did the same thing to him that it did to Old Ben Simmers. He lived out ~~xxxxx~~ around Hedrick or Rose Hill.

Brother Welshons is away this week and this Sunday, he is holding fort in Des Moines for ~~Sixh~~Smith who has gone to Cuba so I am not going to church tonight. I am going to listen to the radio if I can stand Staton's murder of the english language. Oh he was positively embarrassing to me last Sunday night.

Oh yes, listen to this, Jack said he thought that he could get me a "B" ration book for gas too, by his working out at the base. I ask about him getting it on your name and registration and he said it didn't have to be in his name or in mine, I mean the car, for him to get the "B" book. Also that would be in our favor to keep the Government from seizing the tires and car if that bill goes thro. The dear Lord is still working for us and providing for us isn't he dear?

Hear is some more news for us, yesterday the ration on shoes went through and I cannot get a pair of shoes now without #17 stamp in the ration book. That was plunked down without any warning or notice to the public and so I had a pair of "EEEE" shoes spoken for from Harold. He has just been to St. Louis to buy his supply of summer styles, etc. So I will get a pair as soon as they arrive here. I had ordered a pair from Lane Bryant also so I will have enough ahead for a while. It pays to lay in things like that which we know we are going to have to have for living and then when things like this happen then we can be three jumps ahead of the ration.

Well, Beasley is the pastor's name at Pella, Iowa, remember? Sort of a ~~x~~ coincident isn't it? I think it is wonderful that the Lord has led you into the fold with his sheep down there. Nora got a letter from you and Edith and the folks and they both said that you made the statement that you would be seeing them soon and then are all excited about it thinking that you may be coming home soon on a furlough. I am sure that there is going to be a lot of happy people in this old town when my sailor with the Navy blue eyes comes home and they will have nothing on one lone person down on the corner of Main and Waverly.

It was so cute when Jack phoned me this morning saying that he was coming out after the car, he said to me, " This is the Navy reporting". He is very courteous and nice and so is Betty. The people who have spoken to me about them has all spoke so nice in their favor, they are both well behaved and so nice acting to all around them and to whom they meet. I hope I am not making a mistake by taking them in. Jack was so happy about the house and all that his face just shone and how he loved our windows, that was the first thing he spoke about and Bobby. He said that he and Bobby would have a lot of good times together. He loves dogs and it was surprising how Bobby accepted him right away. He wanted to sit up front with Jack and me when we went after Bobby, I let the kids sit in front so that the baby could be by the heater but she came to me just as easily and smiled and cooed to me, I think we will ~~bbz~~ get along together, little Peggy and I. She is not pretty by any means.

No I haven't heard any more from the allotement, I don't suppose I will hear any more until I either get the money or am refused. I put in that I had phlebitis but not in the cronic stage. One of our customers, W.L. Murphy is in the hospital now with it. Spilman is his doctor too. His son another nice youngster so courteous and nice was telling me all about his Dad saturday night. I told him that I had missed his coming in and so he said that outside of school he had been spending most of his time at the hospital with his dad.

Well, the broadcast has just come on and that drum that Boyles pays sure sounds the bunk over the radio. I wish they would eliminate that, they choir never comes in until about the second or third word at the begining of each verse, they don't know yet that they are supposed to sing.

3 Bobby is barking at the drum, he thinks it is someone pounding at the door or something. They are now singing the chorus. For you I am praying for the folks in service. I don't know what is going to become of the music at that place, and Mrs. Welshons is howling as usual. I don't know why she does that when she could sing nice if she would. I love the singing that Fuller's Old Fashioned Gospel hour has. They sing nearly every song that we have but they don't murder it when they do, they have some shape about it and are not ashamed to get singers that can at least read the music.

I am interested in winning Jack and Betty to the church but will have to go about it by living the life before them and praying for them. They are too sweet a young couple to let go without some serious thinking. I think I could handle and mould him with kindness. Of course today was the first time that I have met her but she is nice too.

I hope you have Spring down there soon. It was a nice day today, bright warm sunshine and muggy, Oh, my, we could hardly get out to the garage and into the car after we closed the doors. It seems like all the frost is out of the ground now and everyplace that you step off of the walks you just sink. Coal came again the other day after the rain and they cut great deep chunks and ditches in the sidewalk where they backed in. Cars were stuck all along the dirt sideroads we noticed as we were out riding and one was being pulled out onto the pavement with horses down by that little school house just out of Fairfield. We didn't go to anyone's house, just rode down there and back and was Bobby ever tickled when he got to go riding. Jack got the biggest kick out of him whining and chewing around because he was mad about the window being closed, he sure loves Bobby and said, you surely don't let him outside do you on account of the cars. and I said I did not, at any time only for his exercise and that we didn't let him run around with dogs or anything like that. Jack loves music and has a brother that is a musician. He is so much like you in many ways but he is not as dear and good as you, no one could be like you. You are my angel and my saint. Avinell and Nora says that you are the most wonderful and such an exception to all the boys, they don't know the half of it, I know how much more wonderful and precious you are and I am not saying it just as a doting mother but as a true honest opinion that many others think of you too.

Leonard Collett is singing now, "Somebody Knows". Oh how I wish that lad would take lessons and develop his pretty soft voice. He has something there and education would not break down and ruin his spiritual life. That is one thing that the full gospel is afraid of, to get a little education in order to be a credit to the Lord who gives them such a talent. Well they will not stop me with my music because I am asking the Lord to bless my voice to his service as well as to other songs. I want to be a mother that my little boy can stand up before people and do something to the glory of the Lord as well as to make people appreciate singing. I never will be a Schuman Heink or any great singer but I am getting a lot of satisfaction out of my lessons.

I hope you get to stay there a month as you wish then you will have found an and made friends there too, another group added to the many friends that we will have to visit after this affair is over. I hope you get to go to New Orleans or someone to get your other dress jumper because I still want you to be the sweetest and prettiest sailor in all the whole big Navy. Jack hasn't gotten a dress jumper yet, he had on a wool middy today but it didn't have any braid or stars or anything on it. He hates his Donald Duck hat and took it off just as soon as he got out in the car. The men out here at the base hasn't got nearly all of their things yet, and they just have to go as is in dungarees even. He has his blue pea coat and wool trousers tho. He has to get rubbers when he can get time to get down town to the stores. as it is a regular loblolly out at the base.

You said that if you went to cooking school that you would probably go to New London, now where is that, in Conn.? If you learn to cook, when you come home I will not have to worry about getting the meals, Ha.Ha.

Just as soon as your mail gets thro to you O.K. I am going to mail the letter of reccomendation which Miss Weirsmith sent to me, so I hope that the one from Morrells comes too but I haven't much faith in them the way that they are acting toward the Government and people in service. They will do anything that blows them up big in the eye of the public but when it comes to indivual help they don't get any glory for that so they don't put themselves out, they are like the big wigs on court hill, they take the boys into their homes, rent them rooms and cut their throats when it comes to rent and then run all around and brag about what they are doing for the boys out here at the base. I notice that the big wigs never take any of the A.S. into their homes but the commander and the chaplain and those guys they have for dinner and all that stuff and then stand in the store and blow themselves up bigger than a dirgible about it. It sure gets my goat and I have to bite the end of my tongue to keep from turning both barrells loose on some of them.

band

Jack said that there was two men in the navy ~~band~~ that were holy terrors and they were causing many penalties and punishments upon the rest of the band by getting out and acting against rules and orders. He said that the others behaved pretty good. Jack has traveled all out thro the west to the ocean. He went over and looked at your picture today and said, well he is more of a sailor than I am and he looked at dear old Mother's picture, and I told him that she was our guardian angel, and the most precious mother in the world to us. Jack said he would help me to lay the rugs and clean up around the home and with the work as he has quite a bit of time off at some times, you know how it is, well anyway he said he would love to help me fix and get anything ready for you that he could. I'll be glad to have him carry out the ashes for one thing. It is just getting me down this winter. I carried three bushels out today and the last one I only got as far as the back door and they are still there yet, I expect I will have to go out and empty them yet tonight before I go to bed. Nora tells me that I am taking my reducing to serious but that isn't it. It is just my age and my nerves. I am just like I was on pins when I get home of a night, it worries me about things undone and all this week I will have to work at night changing things around in the back bedroom for the children to be in there. I will have to take the sewing machine out so that the baby&s bed can be set by their bed and take off all those feather ticks and so I am going to get some big shoe cartons that the shipments come to Harold in and put them in that until we can take them over and have some feather ticks or I mean feather mattresses made for the single beds like the one on Mother's. That is the only way that I can keep them without them getting dirty and full of Moths or mice. Now I will have Jack to drive me to these places after I come home from work instead of taking the bus which will take so long and then I would have to pay 50¢ now to the dime deliver to take them for me. They stop for the least little thing it costs 25¢. They delivered for the store one day and charged 25¢ for every house that they stopped at so you see how it would cost me and they don't do it the same day, but just when they can get around to it. He will be a lot of help to me.

The broadcast is over now, it is nine o'clock and I have to empty the ashes and put the ~~sweeper~~ sweeper away and do some things like fix the fire before I go to bed. Mrs.Applegate is very bad, he is really on his death bed, the Dr. says that he cannot be any better as kidney trouble has set in and his feet has sores on them that just run all the time. So he will not be here much longer. There will be a lot of things happened before you get home won't there dear?.

5 Well Vernon got off Friday morning, they have not heard from him yet unless it was today. Mable went to work on the same bus with me Sat and she said he would phone before he left Des Moines. She wanted to go up their today and said she couldn't afford it and that their car wasn't to be depended on to go that far giving me a hint I suppose to take our car but nothing doing. None of that Ward outfit around me, just let her stay right up there where she belongs. Art lives now above the store there on the corner, you know, the name has slipped my mind, you know that outfit that their boy was in the mess with Ward and Johnnie and Art drives Vernon's car around like it was his own. Vernon said they can run thro with it and then they are done because when his tires were checked they told him that they were all past going and that he would have to get four new ones and he said that would put an end to the driving around in the car as soon as they went down.

I hope my dresses comes this week because this one I have, my best, is wearing out fast, the buckle has worn clear thro to the metal and the buttons are losing their coverings too. I can get a new buckle of some plastic material and buttons too but I have had it cleaned until the material is weaking in some places and I am looking for it to split one of these days. I received an acknowledgement of my order Sat so I hope this week brings the order itself.

It looks like the Italians and Germans are getting enough of the war don't it? The Russians are sure hitting them hard. The Lord be with them and lead them to Victory rapidly. The God of Love bless our boys and their leaders with intelligence in his power to guide them to Victory. May he destroy the Japs with their own hands and make our lads victorious and may they not forget that it was God who did it.

Did I tell you that Jack fell in love with your blue hobnail dishes? He saw the pitcher and tumblers in the window where you left them and then the sherberts which I got for you and now when the plates come it will be beautiful on your new walnut table and the beautifl soft rich lustrous walnut in that dark brown standing on your lovely light tan beige rug. I am so anxious for them to be delivered and fixed for you. I have asked God to bless it all to his honor and I have thanked him for providing it. I have asked God to guide the way about taking Betty and Jack in and that we may be a harmonious family and I have thanked him and praised him for sending that income to defray the family expenses around the house here. Betty says that Jack is expert at fixing hot dogs and hamburgers. He likes to cook and potter around in the kitchen so I will be sure of something to eat good and warm when I get home these cold evenings. What do you think about it Dear? Do you think that Mother is doing something that she will regret? I hope not for your sake. Avinell asked me what you would think about it and how you would take it? I told her that it wouldn't be any worse than Wayne, Clara and Dallas and I know that they will be cleaner than Dallas was. He got rather rough with things if it didn't suit him. He would come back if I would just say the word but I can't have him here with me alone, it wouldn't look just right and then he would demand too much. He has been spoiled at home. Oh, yes, Betty told me that he had sent a little money to Mrs. Fabritz on his bill. I think it is mean of him after her letting him have them at less than retail cost. I would like to get a flourescent floor lamp for sewing, etc., and a bigger one for the back bedroom. I want to get a fixture for the front bedroom and Jack can put it up. I am going to have it like Mr. Corrick said when you come home. You are not going to turn your hand to do anything but just have your own good time for yourself and going to see those whom you want to see and to church. I geuss your Mother spoils you too but I love doing it for the dearest, sweetest and grandest boy in the whole big world, and I mean the whole world too.

6 I was telling Jack and Betty about Pella and the tulip festival and also about Amana. Jack likes those kind of things like you and I do and Betty loves to fish, so she can use Dallas's pole that he left here and she and I will catch night crawlers and go fishing once in a while. Won't that be nice for your old Mammy? I want to live a life of goodness and love so that I can make an impression on their young lives that will direct their paths into future goodness and their steps to their Heavenly Father. Pray for them my dear that they will awaken to the spiritual side of life. He is away from home like you but of course not so far but he can't get time to go over home so in a sense he is stranded just as far. I want to be kind to all the boys but some of them won't stand for kindness, they are like some of them you have around you.

Dear Little Boy of Mine, I think I had better get myself off to bed and the other things I must do before going to bed because tomorrow it is off to work again. I hope I dream of your dear self again tonight. You are so constantly in my thoughts and everything that I do is for you and you only. I love you so, and to the glory of God.

Jack drives the car so carefully, only a time or two did he go 35 miles an hour and he drove it into the garage like it was spun glass. He is so careful in handling it and said that it was in wonderful shape. Yes I told him that it was your one joy and that you gave it the best of care. And he knows that I am cranky about it too. Mr. Clark said that it was safe from freezing and that the battery would be all right if we drove it out once in a while and kept it charged up. He thought it was you at first when we drove in at the station and his eyes got as big as two fried eggs for a second and then when he saw that it wasn't you you could see his expression change in a flash and the lad who is at the station with him kept eyeing us all the time we were there.

Little Bobby has curled up in one of the chairs in the dining room where he can keep one eye on me while I am writing. He is the sweetest little fellow. He gets all kinds of hugs and kisses for you, in fact I nearly eat him up sometimes. We had hamburger stew and vegetables this week, he even ate his carrots and peas like a good little man. We had a couple of pickled pigs feet too this week, Gee they are only 2 for 17¢ now, used to get them 6 for 25¢. Oh but things are going high. Hamburger is 30 and 35¢. Butter 52¢. I mix mine with Oleo and make two pounds out of it. The kids will have to buy those things for themselves but I can have their coffee coupons as they seldom use it. Jack drinks milk. Again he is like you, he takes a quart of milk with his sandwiches. You boys will have to have a milk drinking contest when you come home. The Dr. says that Betty would Betty had to drink four glasses a day and she don't care much about it.

Well I will say good night and meet you in Dreamland but how I want to meet you in person. I just can't wait to have you come home. I hope we don't have anymore severe winter weather, of course there will be blustry cold days but I hope no more subzero weather like we have had this past three weeks. They were torture to me. Well here is where Bobby and I go to bed. I will ask God's blessing on you and thank him so for taking you to a full Gospel church. I am so glad that you are there near one. Now do be careful in going back and forth to camp. That country and its ways are all so strange to you and be careful of the insects and things down there. Mother has to leave you in God's loving care and to your own good judgement, I am helpless on my part but Oh how I long to be with you, sweetheart of mine.

God Bless you and do write me often and sooner.

*Love from Mother  
& Bobby*