

Tuesday Afternoon

SEPT 28 43

Dearest One:-

Your letter of Saturday came today with the letter from Breneman in it. I just haven't been in town to any of the stores and will be going up soon to take care of the insurance and some ~~taxes~~ other things/ I phoned him today about that letter and I guess the girl just took it upon herself to mail that letter out as she was away on vacation when the policy expired and I called in there.

Sorry that your pen has quite on you, if it is a Schaffer you had better send it home and let me take it in to Hoffman's and have them mail it down to the factory for repairs. If you do this right away we no doubt will get it fixed before I leave here.

I got some butter this week too but never have I seen ham since coming home as I never have the stamps for them, Bobby gets all my extra points for hamburger. We are having a hot old fall day today and Frank came up and cleaned out the ~~xxx~~ eaves troughs and fix the drain. After the cement ripens I will have to paint it and then he did some cement work on the west side of the kitchen to keep the water from running under there and down in the basement again if that drain gets stopped up again. I have to put cement in the crack in the basement wall on the north side of the furnace room.

You were a man of leisure Saturday weren't you? Well I don't blame you a bit, I would be too if I were you. I wish you had the milk that Frank brought me today because you know I don't care for milk and he brought me three quarts. He has two cows now but is going to sell one as he put an ad in the paper to sell one while he was here this morning. His work cost me \$2.00 and 56¢ for sand and ~~xxxx~~ cement, a half sack of cement and a bucket, coal bucket and box of sand for that amount.

Sen I cannot figure out how I raked you on the post card and for you to say that I was doing it out that way so that everyone could read it just about made me declare not to write anymore. I did not rake you, at least I did not mean to ~~in~~ any way and you must be getting pretty touchy that you can't hear from me any more without saying that I am raking you. Please explain.

I am sorry that Mrs. Carruth had to be operated on but it is no doubt just what I thought did ail her and of course an operation is considered the only way out for tumor.

I hope you get to go to McComb and that the weather was nice for it. It is a change for you to get away from that dirty little dump of a town. Do you use your vibraharp any or does the new neighbors object to it? Margaret Ferguson has ordered the new song books so I will have one for you as soon as they get in. You say the war news is still good, does that mean that your little radio is still working O.K? I asked you in a previous letter but you did not tell me if it was still on the job or not.

Glad you got a letter from Welshen. He told me about yours and mentioned it over the radio. I'm glad it is getting cooler down there and today is warmer here than it has been in many a week. I have been sleeping between part wool blankets, two of these single blankets over men and a wool filled comforter to boot, so you know it has been plenty cool here.

Sure glad that John is Chief and I hope it don't give him the big head or some other upper handed attitude. I would hate to see him spoiled.

Well about the minister coming to the Ottumwa base to be chaplain, he might just as well go to a pig sty and try to clean up hogs as to try to have any effect on the men here for he is just casting his pearls before swine. The Waves are here and there is no bones made about why they are at the base, for just one reason the main reason and that is to satisfy the sailors passions. The things that Frank told me what Pat told him about them and their use out there and that the officers say that if a sailor or soldier will not go after that kind of thing that he never will make a fighter. He also said that one sailor who has a Wave friend hasn't left the base for 30 days since she has been there with him so you can see that all the reports which we have heard about the Waacs and Waves and any other female military woman is true. When I exclaimed at the horror of it all, Frank said, Well, is a woman soldier or Sailor any different from a man? and I guess if a woman will go for a military postition instead of staying in a home and making a home and town fit for men to come home to, she should not be treated with respect or at least she should not expect it.

Welshen gave a pretty hot sermen on the women last Sunday night and how their place was in the home and those with children had plenty to do without going into defense plants while their children grew up to be outlaws on the city streets. He also said that seven of our young women in Ottumwa had their names posted up out at the base with strict orders for the sailors to stay away from them and you can imagine with a subject up like this, just what kind of a sermen he gave, the smoke just flew.

How about your uniforms, aren't they ready to wash again and have you some more socks to be washed and darned. I hear the five o'clock zepher coming in and I hope it has a letter from you on it for tomorrow. I don't look for one on Wedas I hardly ever do get one then.

Well I must get to work while the day is so nice for it may be cold and raining in the mornning. and I do wish you were able to trade towns with that minister but he don't need to look to us to hunt him a place to stay for his coming to this town will be none the better for his coming and he is just wasting time and everything else. If it is not within the sailor or any other service man to do different a chaplain is just wasting his time. I am just wondering how Welshen and the men of the prayer meeting group will come out in their new attempt. There will be some of the boys, thank Heaven that will want to do different but there is ten others to one good boy that does not want to.

I will close now and get to work and hope for a letter tomorrow. and also hope for another nice warm day so that I can get a lot of work done. I am anxious to clear out of here. If I have to stay here intewn this winter I would close the house and just take a room rather than to have to worry with the coal problem. Out of over 400 mines in Iowa there has been more than 200 shut down so the radio news states. So you can see how short the fuel is to be. Well by fer now

Love Mother