

Nov. 30th '42

Sunday 1:20 P.M.

Dear Family,

I think this is going to be one of those "cozy" Sundays when I can catch up and perhaps atone for the neglect of my generous family. I think the last two weeks have been the best of my whole tenure here from the standpoint of delightful and rich experiences. I'll try to be chronological and spare you.

I believe my last letter was written two weeks ago - the day when I had played Atlas in holding up plasterboard for ceiling. The next day we had school with classes meeting for 15 minute periods. John got back from Seattle that morning. He has hopes of a commission in the procurement division. Monday afternoon we fixed up our rooms (for what consisted of getting up some of the wealth of maps you had sent and some pictures of Idaho.) Then a teachers' meeting and in the evening Chorus rehearsal. By evening we had a nice little "blizzard" and it was cheery to walk out in the snow.

Tuesday we had "normal" school. It went very nicely. In fact I've had a good time and surprised myself when I compare notes with other teachers. I must score the tar out of them, or else my individual conferences at registration (the other thought I was crazy to spend so much time on making programs - 10 min. apiece)

Established rapport because I haven't had the bad cases of giggles to contend with. I have a 1 hour senior civ class first period (8:30 - 9:20) in which we study world problems and world literature. Then the rest of my morning is free except that I'm supposed to spend 1 or 2 of my free periods as assistant in the counseling office. In reality I've spent all 3 hours there except for two days. That will be adjusted though. In the afternoon I have two 11th grade civ classes (11:30 to 3:15 and 3:20 - 5:05) on American history + govt. and lit. It is my luck to have one staff child in each - more than the other teachers have. But again I was happily surprised. The boy in my first 11th civ has been a problem in other schools and I had been warned he'd be a tough customer but forewarned is forearmed and he's turning out to be very well adjusted. My last class is hardest. I can't blame them for being restless after sitting at the uncomfortable benches all day - and the class is more of a mixture of talents and types. In that class I have Esther Herndon who is considerably harder to handle not only because of personality but also because she, being the only staff daughter + the oldest, has been more accepted as one of the adult group and a pal of the young teachers' group. But on the whole I'm quite satisfied with our progress to date.

3/ Tuesday night I had a committee meeting to arrange refreshments for the education and administration and a staff party. Then home.

Wednesday night I ~~went to the movies~~ ^{played bridge with Jubie + Bob and} ~~on the project and saw the book + Miss Jones.~~ ^{carried the weekly reports!}

Thursday I played bridge with John and Bob and some of the others.

Somewhere in there we had rain - in fact it's been rainy and muddy or else snowy for the last two weeks. It may be a desert but there's a lot of water and mud out! It has made school a mess because we have no walks between buildings - just earth - and 1296 students changing classes 8 periods a day churn + stir a marsh by the time it has thawed at sun up.

And that reminds me to mention that we are in the ~~traffic~~ ^{time} belt out because of the cities or something we go on Mountain time up here. When you set the clocks back another hour for War time you have us going to breakfast at 7:30 with moon and stars as bright as mid night and the faint tinge of sunrise as we walk to school at 8:15!

The mountains are lovely now. We can see them both since they are snow covered. It is nice to look north and see the sawtooths over 100 miles away seeming like ice bergs lined up no more than 10 or 20 miles off. The sun rises + sun sets are marvelous.

4/ Will I got of the subject. Friday night we had
our party & very successfully - even better
than the first one because we went entirely
strangers.

Saturday we had a district meeting of the
Idaho Ed. Assn. in Twin Falls. Mr. Robinson,
our superintendent, is State President. He gave a
fine speech but aside from that it was so
corny I'm ashamed to be put in the same
category with most of the members! Can you
imagine the assistant state supt. of schools
consistently pulling such honors as
"more better"!

Saturday evening was the best so far. John
and I were guests of the Haras at their apartment. He
is our choir director and he is head auditor for
the Coops of which John is asst. supervisor.
There was another very charming Japanese
girl there. We played hearts and then taught
Iwao (Ewow) and the other girl, Toshiko, contract
while Mae prepared the spread - coffee, toasted
cheese sandwiches, noodles and homemade
walnuton pickle. Then we sat and talked and
talked till midnight. The Haras are the most
delightful people!

Sunday I got my clothes washed but then
it was time for the Episcopal service. Imagine my
amusement at ending up playing the hymns
on the piano! It was fun and I'm to have the
job of supplying music at the English services
twice a month! We are to have a quartet organized
too.

5) In the evening I went to the federated church service and came home to a snack.

Monday night was choir. ~~They~~ ^{They} night they had a party for one of the couples who was leaving to go back to Los Angeles. It also turned out to be John's birthday. Imagine my amazement at being high score at bodge! I got a party little blue jar.

Tuesday night I had a meeting of the English committee — it was brief thank goodness. Then home and washed my hair.

Wednesday was the party for two to four tables of auction bridge — half colonist half staff which John had cooked up and I helped with. We had one of the gals who wait table and checks us in at the dining hall and her boy friend, the kharas, my assistant and her boy friend, and a couple from John's office. Everyone had a good time I think. I had had three class parties during the day. Thanks giving was delightful. We had 9AM breakfast and then several of us went to the federated church service (half Japanese, half English). It was snowing all day and lovely. There were about 30 of us there. They took bed sheets for white table cloths and Mrs. Light made a wonderful table decoration of a turkey made from a fan by squash and sagebrush. She used a piece of broat for the neck and head and bored holes for a fan tail of sagebrush at the other end. With red paper wattles and surrounded with nuts + fruit it was good. They also had place cards of colored paper in the shape of Idaho's baked potatoes + fruits and Japanese paper maple leaves.

6/ It was a delicious meal and we all sat down together and made a family affair with singing grace and laid other songs. Then we had a snow ball fight and adjourned to John's for records. The lovely box from Aunt Anna had arrived Wednesday and we enjoyed it immensely over the. Then I stayed and played bridge in the evening and we opened the jillies - they are delicious!

Friday was school again! My records which I ordered came so I borrowed the player which belongs to another job and we had music in the dorm. ^{10:45 PM} Mr. + Mrs. Light and Mrs. Herndon and John came over. We sat knitting (Mrs. L. and I) and Jerry went over some school stuff and John played pool table. It was very cozy.

By the way, you'll be interested to know that the children here, rather than give baskets of groceries at Thanksgiving as usual, brought candy bars to the Thanksgiving service to be given to the M.P.'s on duty here! Who but in America? They haven't forgotten that they were extremely kind and gentle in helping them when they arrived and are still nice to them! That whole Thanksgiving service was unforgettable. I couldn't help realizing their plight and good spirit!

Yesterday we had meetings all morning and then in the afternoon I went shopping with the girls. I was able to do quite a bit of my Christmas shopping so I'm afraid I can't send the

7/ promised check. However I have another due Tuesday. I have some insurance to payout of that but I'll do the best I can.

Last night Bob came over and visited and we ended up getting John to join us ~~with~~ at a snack based mostly on Heris coffee and my jellies and boxes.

Today we (Mrs Herridon + I) went to church in the rain after breakfast. It is a new meeting hour. Well world going.

I came home and was started on correspondence when it came dinner. At the table John invited us to go to town to a show so Bob and Mrs Herridon + Esther and I went with him to see The Major and the minor. It was fun. We are just back. It poured and hailed half the way home!

The project is just a sea of mud!
First of all I want to express my thanks for the packages. Mother and Daddy's came Saturday morning. We have enjoyed everything immensely and they all think I have a wonderful family. They can't imagine what there is left for Christmas now! Incidentally, because of travel difficulties I guess I'll be here over that holiday and go to San Francisco over Washington's birthday taking a few days leave then.

Gladys was very grateful for the tablets. I had a note from Irene Willoughby of Stanford saying Dr. Eulich just being Education Director of the OPA to be Lt. Commander in the Navy. Have I remembered to tell you that the Dr. Wynn whom I was most anxious

of to work with at Minnesota is in Washington with the Army?

Thank you, Mother, for attending to the wool - and ^{if you} for the N. Y. Times.

I'll try to write Aunt Ida soon. Somehow I seem to be permanently or chronically (sp.) swamped! I seem to live at the center of a tornado.

Thank you for the books too - I'm going on a road from How War Came to my World Problems class tomorrow.

Mother's letter to Ren came Saturday. I'm certainly proud of him too - even though I do seem to neglect him badly. I hope he shows my letters.

I'm delighted with Daddy's news on record players. I'll be able to handle it nicely I'm sure. We enjoyed my new records so much (33 1/2 size for the single ones - mostly Strauss waltzes, Fur Elise, a Spanish Dance (Sarasate), Callings of Song, Mand with the Slapen Hand, Minstrels (Debussy) and New World Symphony.

Friday night was delightful and satisfying. I have smiled and smiled at your weather prediction. We average 10 inches rain per year but must be making up for some mighty lean years! It has been flood conditions in many sections of the project and most desolate! The only saving grace is that the Seattle + Portland like the rain because

It's like home!

I'm hoping for the best regarding Ren's military status - whatever the best is. I'll try to be a better correspondent from now on.

Love,
Pelen
Perhaps you can show this letter around.

Nov. 30

Alice and Clayton Watts (206 Cedar St., E.L.)
announce Georgia Elizabeth Aina
who arrived Nov. 13 weighing 8 lb. 11 1/2 oz.

I've had 2 delightful letters from Aunt
Eleanor for which thank you. And
please tell her the package is here and
untouched by dent of great relief, control.

Also nice letters (opened) from Larry
and Margaret and Aunt Anna.

Hearty with love
again
Helen