

January 29, 1916
8th P.M.

Dear Big Sis,

I just returned home from work and received your most welcome letter. It surely was a pleasant surprise for me and thank you loads for taking time out to write me.

I've been meaning to write you for the longest time but as you may know procrastination and limited time are my two obstacles.

This is ~~only~~ surely a delayed thanks for your Christmas gift. However - I've surely been making good use of the convenient coin parcel. Thank you ever so much.

I'm glad to hear that you are enjoying the good fragrance of the small gift I sent you.

Yes, I had a wonderful trip to Chicago. I really don't care for Chicago and I don't think I never shall - gloom, grayish soot always in the air, noise and cramped living conditions and the buildings are so black and crumpled looking. I was spoiled from the country, fresh atmosphere of Parkchester. But to have spend those three days with us was so wonderful. I also saw the Kate boys and Jimmie's wife. It was such a treat to have seen them. Sort of caught up with some news of our home town friends. I had

Couple of days and will have to make them up at the end of my training, but it surely was worth it because I was almost sick of sitting around here in this small town and let my holiday season go by like an ordinary day - as I suddenly had the opportunity & made the sudden decision.

It was nice of you to write such favorable news about the attitude of the people regarding our return. Personally - I've been quite pessimistic about ever returning - in fact I've decided to stick around the midwest as the people around here are so friendly here. But upon receiving your letter I'm sort of anxious to return to N.B. and see my old friends. It would be ever so nice to see all of you again. Long Beach people have always been so liberal toward us nurses while we were there and people's reaction was much much more favorable than other cities. In sure we owe a lot, to people like you who do such wonderful things in our behalf. Your untiring efforts as in your "campaigning tour." How power to you "big sis". I wish I could have been among those hundreds who heard you.

I like my surgery work - but at times I wonder whether I'm in surgery or not because we work about three or four times a week in surgery and the rest of the days we work on the floor. One of the chief surgeons is away for about four weeks, and he works three three days of the week in our operating room. They sometimes do need us, but no the Director tells

as we are more needed on the floor. We no dread going to the floor - no matter how long we work in surgery we don't mind - but to have to work on the floor when we're really supposed to be in surgery we feel so lost. When we do work in surgery we work from 12-14 hrs. Get up at 6:00 - get work at 6:30 and home around 7 or 8:00 at night. Sometime we eat lunch - other times a snack around 2 or 3:00 PM. Feels a life - but I'm enjoying what surgery I do have.

I have a year and two sign months more to go yet. Gladly be when the end of that training comes. It'll be the happiest yet! I detest this Catholic institution and its so-called contradictory teaching and regulations so much that I'm having to go this very minute. My blood pressure is always going up and down - battling over certain principles. Hoping I can live through it all. On my last six months I'm planning to affiliate some where for my senior case period. I don't really know just what branch of nursing I would like to do. Just now I'm thinking of public health nursing. The notes here tell us that Public Health is not an essential wartime service. Believe me - I surely hope peace will come before another year comes around.

He is planning to go to Nebraska soon. What the plans will be in the days to come. I surely hope the day will soon

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come when Dad, Martha and the rest of the family can be together again and where there will be a place I can call home. The patients ask me where my home is - I usually hesitate to answer for I really have no place where I can call a home, except Berkeley or maybe Camp. When I say Arizona, they begin talking about it so familiarly & I have to say I only lived a year there had talk of P. B. So now I say I'm from S. B. Calif., then I can tell them all about it. But I hope soon I can really say where my home is because we're all so scattered and ~~farther~~ more ~~disseminated~~ dispersed. I feel that way after having been in one spot for so long.

Your sound so much better and from the sound of your letter - between lines - much happier. I hope you are. Don't work too hard now.

I had better close now and do some studying. Regards to the old stand by.

Always,

Martha

James K. ...
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Collector, Minn.



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