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Letter, Virginia Brainard to Dudley and Merl Brainard [February 19, 1942]

Virginia Brainard

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Thursday Feb. 19, 1942

Dear Mother and Daddy,

Mid-terms are over at last and yesterday I got my card from the Registrar saying that I will be promoted at the end of this quarter. So this is it! Now I have to see my junior college counselor, have her assign me a senior college counselor and go and see the head of my department. So in a few days I'll know where we're at.

Thank you so much for the box of candy. It was 66 ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ good! And the cookies were wonderful and home didn't seem so far away when my laundry came.

The Engineer's Ball was wonderful. Howard was ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ made a "night of St. Patrick by initiation into the Guard ~~or~~ Order of St. Patrick and I was real proud. During intermission we entertained Mr. and Mrs. B.H. Platt, head of Buildings and Grounds here, and ended up with an invitation to their house. Howard was head of decorations and all the faculty and everyone else congratulated him and I was proud again. I'll never forget some of the ~~many~~ wonderful times I've had last year and this year. College is wonderful-----everything seems to be "wonderful" today, ~~it~~ according to this letter! There'll be more later because I suddenly have to go to class.

Sunday

I was interrupted here by house planning. I'm working on ideas for decorating and thanks for the information I needed. I have alot of material in my personal home ec. file and I'll write you Monday or Tuesday. I wouldn't like green either. It wouldn't be a good background for a family of brunettes.

Yesterday I went to Des Moines with some of the journalists. And I did some thing its hard to tell you about. I've never done anything like this before and I was scared while I was doing it, wondering what you'd say. I tried to be calm and sensible and say "No."

But I got a spring suit. That is, I paid \$1 down on it and they'll hold it for me for 30 days until I complete payments on it.

I didn't take any money with me to Des Moines so I wouldn't buy anything. And I had no idea of looking at clothes. But ~~one~~ the kids started trying on suit jackets — \$20 to \$25 models — so I thought I'd have a little fun on the money I don't have. I put on a ^{beautiful} suit and casually glanced at the price tag — \$12.95 at Youkers. It was ^{still} gold, 100% wool. The jacket was completely lined, the ~~two~~ ^{and shirt} sleeves had 1 1/2 in. hems in them and the shirt had three inverted pleats front and back. It was beautiful — just perfect — and Doty couldn't find anything she wanted under \$19.95. ~~So~~ I argued and argued with myself and finally put \$2 on the line.

Then we went over to Stearns to look for suits for Dotty. And there was seen a better bargain at \$10.95. So I cancelled the lay-by at Youkers and put \$1 down at Stearns. This one is a gold herringbone ^{traced} ~~wool~~ ^(it's only 65% wool but) that won't show much dirt. The jacket is completely lined and the sleeves and hem have 1 1/2 in. hems. I don't think it is