

Monday, April 7, 1941

Dear Mother and Daddy,

Its 5:15 and I've just come from a class in Household Equipment. I love that course. Today we studied all the materials used in kitchen utensils. Its more fun. Since the beginning of the quarter we studied electricity – wattages, voltages, amps, short circuits, blown fuses (what causes them & had to replace). An appliance is designed to run on a certain voltage and what those voltages are for all types of household appliances and how much wattage they take and how many amps they pull. Its fun. There's a woman in the lab who does experimental cooking on some of the ranges to test them efficiently & how they work so she feeds us the food she makes. Someone has to eat it! The other day we had hot baking powder biscuits with slabs of butter in them and cherry pie in a week or so we'll start cooking, too – but just to learn how to run all sorts of ranges from gas to electricity to coal & wood. We'll also have several periods washing our clothes in the laundry to learn how to run all the washing machines.

\$5.00 of the money you sent me went for a deposit for my room for next year. We had to reserve them now. Dorothy and I planned to room together in a double-room but Helen got in on our plans somehow and we found ourselves signing up for a room for three. Now Virginia Richter is left out in the cold. I'm very sorry about the whole turn of events. We didn't want to break up next year. Dorothy and I planned to be room mates and then hoped that Virginia & Helen could get rooms next to ours, each with a different room mate but three could all draw a juniors last Wednesday and Virginia had to draw as a sophomore the next day so that's what happened. I hope there's some way it can still be fixed up but I doubt it very much. Virginia wanted me to room with her but I just could not and Dorothy and I get along so ideally that I wouldn't live with anyone else, anyway.

Our room for next year is way over in Oak – and we were hoping against hope to get into Elm!! – up on fourth floor – 402. It's the very newest of the dorms, just completely in 1939. We were in it last year, Mother. Its lovely and has its own dining room, thank Heaven, but its so far from the dorm circle and such a long walk that I'm not looking forward to it. We're going to put our names on the waiting list for Elm.

Our fire was quite some excitement and a very great loss. The building is just a shell, now. It was right next to the Chem building and, as the Student said the next day, "it was an ill wind that didn't blow those flames over to the Chem building."

Why don't you listen to our carillon music on the campanile over WOI? Its on now – 5:45. It makes me feel nearer home and closer to you to know that we're both listening to our campanile. Maybe that's the time of the news broadcast, tho'.

Can Connie come down with Mr. Zeleny? Oh, I hope so!! We're all planning on it already. My room mates are all excited about it and they've seen out pictures. Dorothy's mother drives over nearly every Sunday and Helen's mother has been here several times and the Richters, also, but we've never had a chance before to have someone from my family with us. So I'm hoping it will be possible.

You must be having vacation now. I remember that it was just a year ago on last Easter morning at breakfast that Daddy told me I could go to Ames. Joan was with us and we were all so excited. I was scared to death, too, at the actual idea of really going. I was so scared that for a minute I wasn't sure whether I really wanted to go or not. And then it seemed so far away. Its 1941 and the year that takes me out of my teens and then in another year I'll be 21 and "of age" I wonder what and where we'll all be by then.

I told you sometime ago that Robyn has transferred to the U of Hawaii. We've been waiting pretty regularly and she sure loves it! I don't know how she does it. They haven't any money. But I'm pretty sure she isn't engaged to be married. She would have told me and from what she said in her last letter about love and marriage loving to wait for a long time, I don't think she's become engaged since. Last summer when she was home and visiting me she was wearing a ring – not a diamond, tho'. We had some long talks. She was trying to decide what to do and she finally decided no and so she went back to Calif. And they broke it off.

What is Eugene Perkins' address? Should I write to him? Do you think he'd like it? We started but it kind of fell off. I guess I owe him a letter!! Will you get his address, please?

Give my love to jo. I'm thinking of you all this week and especially on Easter. I wish I could be home but there won't be any let-up for us. This week-end will be just like any other.

Will you please send me my yellow formal? I won't mention the possibilities of a new formal again cause I think you should be the ones to judge that.

You asked me what kind of shirt outfit I'd like, if possible. I like those pastel plaid pleated shirts with a solid color shirt – instead of sweater – to go with it. I think I'd like the shirt to be yellow and I wonder if there's any combination of pastel plaid to go with pink, gold, olive green & yellow!!

Of the \$15, I have about \$6.50 left. This is how I spent it.

\$15.00	\$.50 – Gym fee
– 8.49	.50 – house dues
<hr/>	1.00 – present for Mary Lou
\$6.51	.29 – anklets
	1.20 – school supplies
	5.00 – room deposit
	<hr/>
	\$8.49

The present was for Mary Lou Springer's birthday. They have had me over countless times and have been so good to me and she gave me a Christmas present & I didn't give her one so I'm glad I could do something nice for her birthday It was March 30.

Please try to let Connie come.

P.S. will you please send me some of my “calling cards?” they’re in the secretary, 2 think.

All my love,

Virginia