

Oak Hall

Sunday 9/29/41

Dear Mother and Daddy,

I didn't get my program straightened out until just yesterday so this has been a hectic week for me. I can take only 12 hours of work – that means only three classes and Organic Chemistry is one of them. My counselor say I'd better take chem. now on only 12 hours and get it over with + I guess it's a good idea. There's nothing I can do about it anyway. But the prof. that taught such a poor course in it has been removed and we have a very good prof – a man. His name is Fulmer and he's short and stout and just a kind a jovial as he can be. He has the course very well organized, too, with a quiz every Thursday so that heaven and earth don't depend upon those four lectures tests plus the final. Its always easier for me to study something like this in little pieces rather than in four great big hunks.

And I have plenty of time for journalism. I love that course. I spend every afternoon from 2 to 6 getting my news and writing it up. I've had 18 inches printed already. I have a darn good "beat" and I think I'm just plenty lucky because some of the others have beats that are practically barren. Coverage of the English and Speech Dep't is mine for keeps and Dr. Greene, the head, and I get along just fine. I get all the stories on the lectures coming here during the year and I'll have to write up their lectures, too. And I'll also be the one to interview them in person. Just think of the people I'll meet. Bernard De Vato is coming Oct. 21. Major George Fielding Eliot on Oct. 23 and Drew Pearson on Nov. 18.

I also cover Debate, the Home Management Dep't in Home Ec. And Sketch, the creative writing publication. This week-end I have an interview with a Swedish couple who left Sweden last spring and got over here by traveling through Russia and Siberia. When they reached America they were so happy and anxious to see our country that they traveled across the continent 4 time this summer. The friends I made both among profs and students last year are certainly valuable now. That might be an object [lesion?] to Eleanor. If I'd antagonized any of them last year I'd just be out of luck right now.

Dorothy's looking for another job. She quit her old one and has another one she can have as soon as she make up her mind. Jobs are just going begging these days so its not a bit hard to get to work. She's planning on coming back to school after Christmas and then we're going to try to live together.

Enrollment has fallen off very little this year. There is about a 5% decrease. Figure now is 5, 900 and the register expects 6,250 after late registers arrive. Enrollment was 6,594 last fall.

An announcement has just been made that senior Ag., Engineer, Vet. Medicine and Science students will be deferred for 6 months, subject to a 6 month's renewal. Also, students in those divisions who have been in school a year will be deferred. So not many of our men will drop off for awhile longer. The order calling for deferment of Ag. Students reported "There is a contemplated shortage of agri. Graduates" for instructors in consolidated schools, managers of large scale farms and supervisors of livestock breeding.

Work on my article is coming along very well. I hope to have it for enough along that I can do the polishing myself after Mr. Brownlee leaves in a week. I had two lovey letters – one from Cousin Hill and one from Bill Bredermann. He's very much in favor of the program and has certainly benefited from it but Cousin Charles has no time for it. He sounded just like you, Daddy. "It has been carried on largely for building up a political machine for the administration, and this machine and the relief and pension clients was what re-elected Roosevelt and is responsible largely for the mess we are in. Do not think I am sore at the present administration because I voted for Wilkie, as he would have been no better."

I wish I knew him! He says his daughter Jessie also majored in journalism and had several years on newspapers before she married. She ran a forum page two years for the Janesville Gagette. I think, judging from his stationery, that Cousin Charles is president of the National Dairy Assoc. I'm going to write him again,

I'm also going to send my manuscript home and I wish you'd check it, Daddy, and send it back right away, Should Miss Schwarty copy it for me?

I love the dorm and my room. At night the wind howls around our corner like a fire siren. Its going to grand this winter. I hate those five flights of stairs from the dining room three times a day, though. And I've done so much walking that my legs just ache up and down. And we have to wear hose and shoes with heels the first week or so to make a good impression on the heads of departments on our beats. We have to look just as old and mature and professional and dependable as possible. Most days I walk the entire circuit of the campus at last three times besides going down town. Yesterday I walked all the way down to Big Ames (3 miles) and half way back.

Tell Chuck & Ned that we beat Denver Friday night 7-6. Yippee! It was an out-of-town game so I didn't get a program.

Thank you very much for the package. The food hit the spot just at the right time and I was plenty glad to get my pillow and keys.

I still have written Marlow and I must get that done as soon as I can.

Tuesday Mary Lou and I have an interview with the editor of the Ames Tribune and then I should have some news for you.

Please write soon. ----

Send me those pictures of the family if Uncle Walter's turned out please?

Love to everyone,

Virginia